

Corpus Christi 2021 A TV

In his timeless book, *The Confessions*, St. Augustine traces his long search among the thinkers of his day for truth, love, and peace. His brilliant mind made him unsatisfied by their answers; indeed, one of his most famous quotes states: “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” Augustine learned this gradually, because while he had every human mark of success, wealth, and influence, he felt a longing for something more. Though he didn’t know what it was, he was certain it was not the Christianity of his mother Monica. Surely, he thought, divine and eternal truth must be complex, hidden, accessible only to the greatest intellects. But to him, Christian faith was a set of ideas so simple that even a child could follow them; and he did not want to be childish.

Then, he tells of a moment when he heard Jesus speak in his heart these words: ***“I am the food of the fully-grown; grow, and you will feed on Me. But receiving Me will not change Me into you, like the food you eat for your body. Instead, you will be changed into Me.”***

“You will be changed into Me.” This is the deepest purpose of the Eucharist, to draw us into the very life of God. Purely out of the unfathomable abundance of His Love, God makes Himself close to us with the very love that gave Himself completely on the Cross, ***so accessible He becomes edible***. In His Body and Blood, He is as close to us as our own flesh; we are as close to Him as His own life. This is what we mean by Communion, as I often say: not just that we receive Jesus, but that He also receives US. To receive Jesus in the Eucharist is to say to Him, ***NOT “You are now mine,” but rather – “I am now Yours.”***

Other than some exceptional events or holidays, we don’t remember every meal we have eaten over the years; but each one of them has sustained our lives and was a link in the chain of who we have become. Coming to Mass may not always move us or seem to advance our spiritual lives; but Jesus never fails to come to us, as we are. Today, I encourage you to spend some moments in prayer to reflect on Augustine’s words, and ask: ***how has the Eucharist changed me? What has Jesus done for me, within me, to make***

me more like He is – Jesus Who came not to be served but to serve, Whose Love is given with an accompanying command: “Do this in memory of Me?”

Weeks and even months without the Eucharist for many during the pandemic helps to rekindle our gratitude for this supernatural Presence of Christ in this inestimable Gift. It is true that God is not limited by His own sacraments, and spiritual Communion can bring us close to the Heart of the Lord, possibly making us more intentional in our desire to be one with Jesus when the routine is disrupted. So, like Augustine, we can be grateful for having a restless heart. We can pray that God will not let us settle for things that will pass, but to hunger always for the presence of Jesus, the Living Bread that comes down from heaven, without limit and without fail. For Augustine was right: ***“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless, until they rest in You.”***

Today, again, ask yourself in prayer: How has Jesus changed Me? As I often recall, every time we come to Communion, the Lord says to each of us: *“I, Jesus, take you as a part of my body. I promise to be true to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you, all the days of my life.”* May we respond with humble awe and sincere devotion: ***“I take you, Jesus, to be my Lord and Savior. I promise to be true to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you, all the days of my life. Change me to be more and more like You.”***