



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily - Solemnity of Corpus Christi

May 29, 2016

Of all the ways that our Lord could have chosen to share his presence with his people, who would have thought that he would pick food? Jesus knew that he would need to go to the Father after he won our salvation, and he knew that we would want our Lord near to us, so he found a way to be with us, and he chose bread and wine.

It makes sense that he chose bread. Every culture has a type of bread. The bible is full of references to bread. Melchizedek offered bread to the God of Abraham as we see in the first reading. This king foreshadows the great King David who was of Bethlehem – which means house of bread. Jesus multiplies loaves of bread in each of the Gospel accounts. Bread is a powerful thing. Wine is equally powerful. Both are made by taking individual grains or fruits and bringing them together and changing them by fire and fermentation. This symbolizes the Church brought together from individual believers, fired by the power of the Holy Spirit into one body, one chalice of blessing.

These are very beautiful theological reflections, and we could spend several homilies on each one of them – I'm not going to, but we

could! But why food? Why did Jesus first decide to come to us as food? There are many answers to this, but the one that I want to share this morning is: because he wanted to be close to us.

Jesus wanted to be close to his people, but he knew he could not be with us like you and I are together right now. So, he chose to come to us as food. Think about what you do with the Eucharist, with the precious body and the precious blood. You take that presence of the Lord, in the form of bread and wine, and you bring him into yourself. Deeper than any hug, stronger than any kiss. The Lord is intimately a part of us in the Eucharist. He feeds us with his love and his grace. He becomes a part of us in this sacrament. God is good! And today we celebrate how much Christ wants to be close to us. His grace multiplies among us – his body – as he becomes a part of each and everyone one of us. Then we go out and nourish the world with his presence. As Pope Francis said last year: “The Eucharist is Jesus who gives himself entirely to us. To nourish ourselves with him and abide in him through Holy Communion, if we do it with faith, he transforms our life into a gift to God and to our brothers and sisters” (16 August 2015). So, let Jesus be close to you today. Meet him – his real presence – as he comes to us a true food in the gift of bread and wine. He is the eternal priest, and his offering is his very self.

May we follow Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, who took Jesus into her body and shared him with the world. “For as often as you eat

this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” (1 Cor).