

Two weekends ago we celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi or the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On that Saturday, five thousand faithful from around the diocese gathered in Mankato to celebrate the kickoff of the Eucharistic Revival, led by our own Bishop Barron.

The gospel reading for the Mass that weekend was Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life as he tells the Jewish crowds that HE is the bread come down from heaven, that the bread he will give is HIS FLESH for the life of the world. Jesus tells the people that his flesh is true food and his blood is true drink, and if they **EAT** his flesh and **DRINK** his blood they will have eternal life.

Do **YOU** believe that his flesh is true food and his blood is true drink? 5000 faithful attested to THEIR belief as they approached Jesus to eat his body at the reception of Holy Communion.

Last Sunday the gospel discussed the situation Jesus laid before the Apostles, that the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few. The harvest he speaks of is the gathering of ALL mankind back to God, and the laborers are those who are called to do just that, go out and preach the Good News of salvation, to EVANGELIZE to all by word and deed. This was the SECOND message of Bishop Barron to the crowd, to let us know we are **ALL** called by Jesus, THROUGH OUR BAPTISM, to evangelize to those near to us.

Sort of a scary prospect for some, if not for a LOT of us to do, to evangelize. Tell me to do something with my hands, to tear something down, to move something somewhere, to construct something out of materials with which I'm familiar. But to EVANGELIZE, to tell others what's good for them, in this day-and-age? Maybe the word "TELL" is a bit bold and forward. Maybe

just a soft reminder like, "God loves you", and leave it at that. Then, if they approach you and question your statement, you can engage them in conversation with the ways God has shown His love to YOU. **THAT** is evangelizing.

Yet, this is the meat of today's gospel, "FEAR NO ONE." It's like Jesus is telling us, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." There are always those who will try to destroy our bodies, but can NEVER destroy our souls. There is only the one who can destroy both body and soul, and that is the evil one, Satan. But he wins **ONLY** if we give ourselves over to him by turning away from Jesus, the conqueror of ALL evil.

Fearless evangelization starts RIGHT HERE at Mass, where **WE** hear the Good News of salvation, of a loving and watchful Father in heaven and the selfless offering of our brother on the cross for OUR sins. Fearless evangelization starts right here at the altar when, at the epiclesis, the priest calls upon the Holy Spirit to **CHANGE** the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fearless evangelization starts right here when we come forward to **EAT** the precious Body of Christ and to **DRINK** his precious Blood, and acclaim in our hearts the words of the Apostle Thomas, "My Lord and my God", and acclaim out loud "AMEN", "I believe".

Listen closely to the words of consecration. Listen to Jesus speaking to **YOU**, to your heart. Take in his words and fear not, he IS with us, **TRULLY**, now and forever, strengthening us on our earthly pilgrimage, till we come to rest with him in his glory.

God bless.