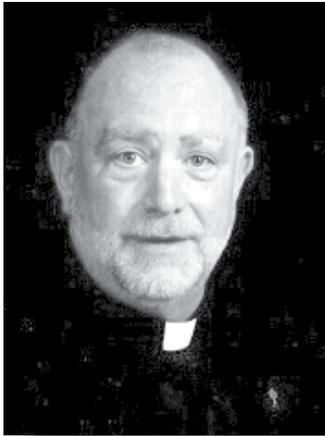


STATE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Celebration Of Corpus Christi Goes Back To 13th Century



**REVEREND ROBERT E. (BOB)
KNIPPENBERG**
KJT State Spiritual Director

“Jesus said to them, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.’”
(John 6: 53-56)

While traditionally the month of June is dedicated by Catholics to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, this year we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*). The celebration of *Corpus Christi* goes back to

the thirteenth century. Pope Urban IV instituted it in 1264 for the universal Church. He wanted it to be filled with joy and accompanied by hymns and a festive procession. He asked the great Western Church father, St. Thomas Aquinas, to compose two Offices of prayer. St. Thomas did so – along with five hymns – and they have nourished the piety of Christians for centuries. In one of them St. Thomas noted: “Material food first of all turns itself into the person who eats it, and as a consequence, restores his losses and increases his vital energies. Spiritual food, on the other hand, turns the person who eats it into Itself, and thus the proper effect of this sacrament is the

conversion of man into Christ, so that he may no longer live for himself, but that Christ may live in Him. And as a consequence it has the double effect of restoring the spiritual losses caused by sins and defects and of increasing the power of the virtues”.

In the celebration of *Corpus Christi*, we proclaim our belief in the Real presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We also proclaim that the same Jesus lives within each one of us who are baptized into His Body, the Church. In fact, the entire Trinity takes up residence within us and, through that life in the Church and participation in the Sacraments we can live in the Trinity. This is the mystery of what we call communion. The

Christian faith and life is about relationship, with the Father, in and through His Son Jesus and in Jesus Christ with one another for the sake of the world. The world into which we are “dismissed” at the end of every Mass is the world that God still loves so much that He continues to send His Son to save, recreate and transform it from within. Our going forth from Mass to “announce the Gospel of the Lord” is to proclaim, by our lives, the ongoing redemptive mission of Jesus Christ and humanity’s participation in it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bob Knippenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Father Bob Knippenberg
State Spiritual Director