

Feast of Corpus Christi / June 14, 2009

A. Expression: “in a nutshell”

- I must admit I like nutshells = summary of a play or novel
- in a nutshell the book was about / the talk was
- E.g., Christianity = in a nutshell
- to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly
- Stewardship in a nutshell (to receive, nurture, share God’s gifts)
- Evangelization (“I want everyone to know who God is”)

B. It’s hard to tuck a mystery into a nutshell – the mystery of the Trinity / the mystery of the Eucharist – as we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi But I think an early prayer of the Church does it = in a nutshell

“O sacred banquet in which Christ is received as food,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the soul is filled with grace and
a pledge of life to come is given to us.”

Ancient Prayer of the Church

1. Eucharist is a meal (banquet, Last Supper – breakfast & lunch too)

- food is important (spare ribs and you know what ... fettuccini ...)
- just as important ... conversation / table talk
- Eucharist is a serious conversation
 - Moses: “We will do everything the Lord has told us”
 - Hebrews: death and deliverance and eternal inheritance
 - Mark: my body, my blood
- this is serious conversation ... talk of love and self-giving

2. Memorial: bricks in our memorial garden

- we gather to remember: the Lord’s passion ... suffering and death, but also creation, and resurrection, and ascension
- cannot afford to forget our ancestors or the mysteries of our faith
- right after the consecration: “Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith”
- “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again”

3. Grace: does something happen? ... common: nothing happens!!!

- baptisms: babies = did they know of the love from parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives (community) = not conscious YET
- somethings we too ... don’t pick up / don’t register God’s besieging love
- like being blind to color / deaf to music ... it’s there ... we need to be aware

4. Life to come: Eucharistic prayer: “When our pilgrimage on earth is ended”

- Eucharist has a great promise: the promise of eternal life
- we live in time ... temporal existence; we have one foot in Eternity
- we are amphibious ... no true home here ... always a restlessness
- George Herbert’s “The Pulley” - God is drawing us back home.

C. In a nutshell: four lines = 34 words ...