FR. GARY'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

This celebration was established for the whole Church in the year 1264, by Pope Urban VI in the Papal Bull, *Transiturus de Hoc Mundo*.

The pope's decision to establish this feast across the whole Church was likely influenced by the efforts of St. Julianna of Liege, Belgium who had a vision in which she understood the Lord to be calling her to urge Church authorities to establish a feast honoring the Body and Blood of the Lord. Additionally, the pope was influenced by the Eucharistic miracle that took place in Orvieto, Italy in 1263.

Here are some lines from the Papal Bull that established this universal feast.

> *Other things which we remember we embrace spiritually and mentally: we do not thereby obtain their real presence. However, in this sacramental commemoration, Jesus Christ is present with us in his proper substance, although under another form.*
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> *Therefore, [Jesus] gave himself as nourishment, so that, since man fell by means of the food of the death-giving tree; man is raised up by means of the food of the life-giving tree. Eating wounded us, and eating healed us. Thus, the Saviour says, My Flesh is real food. This bread is taken but truly not consumed, because it is not transformed into the eater. Rather, if it is worthily received, the recipient is conformed to it.*

The Eucharist is the gift of the Lord's Body and Blood that he left us as a perpetual memorial. The Feast of Corpus Christi, often marked by Eucharistic processions, is a day when the Church can especially celebrate this great gift.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,