

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

This weekend, as we celebrate the most holy sacrifice of the Mass, we also rejoice with those children who are receiving the Eucharist for the first time. This is my Body, this is my Blood, take and eat, take and drink, says our Lord. From the very beginning of the Church, Christians have cherished as a special treasure the words spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper, those words by which bread and wine were changed for the very first time into his most sacred Body and Blood. Years later, St. Paul reminded the believers at Corinth what he had already taught them. He says that he himself received this doctrine from Our Lord. Zealously preserved and passed on, the words of consecration in our Masses today are substantially the same as Paul wrote and Jesus spoke thousands of years ago. With reverence, we eagerly obey the command of Jesus, our Redeemer, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

This holy sacrifice of the Mass, which is the unbloody renewal of Jesus’ sacrifice on Calvary, is a feast in which Christ gives himself as food for our souls. It is also a remembrance, a memorial, which becomes a reality on each altar whenever and wherever the Eucharist is celebrated. The word remembrance has different meaning, far deeper and far more powerful than merely recalling a fact or event from the past. Jesus is not afraid that the apostles will forget about him and begging them not to let it happen. Rather he is commanding them to make it present once again. The word remembrance derives its meaning from a Hebrew term which was used to designate the essence of the feast of Passover. Through their celebration of Passover, the Jewish people not only recall an event from the past, but they are consciously making that event present once more and reliving it so that all generations might share in it. When Jesus said to his disciples, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” it was not simply a matter of remembering the paschal meal of that night, but of enacting the paschal sacrifice of Calvary, which is already present in an anticipated way because of Jesus words at the Last Supper. St. Thomas taught that Christ “instituted this sacrament as the perpetual memorial of his Passion, as the fulfillment of the ancient ‘figures’ that had preceded it, and as the most marvelous of all his works. The Eucharist is the memorial of our Lord’s death, a memorial in which the Last Supper and Calvary are made present again in the paschal banquet. Vatican II reminds us it is the celebration in which Christ is received and consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given us.

Jesus Christ indeed gives us great gifts. He remains with us always in his real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. He nourishes our souls with his Body and Blood. He stands at the door and knocks, promising He and the Father will come in and dwell in us.

On a button there was written, “Jesus said it. I believe it. That settles it.”  
May that always be true for us.

Happy Easter. God bless you!

Father Tom