

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 2, 2024

Gospel: (Mark 14: 12-16, 22-26)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, *“Take it; this is my body.”* Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, *“This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”* Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Reflection:

Jesus’ identity as the suffering servant who obtained redemption for us “with his own blood” is truly the same as his mission – to give of himself without counting the cost, even if its cost is his very body and blood. Self-giving unites identity and mission into the same reality. This solemnity brings us once again to Jesus’ self-giving on the cross and to continue self-giving in the Eucharist, and challenges us to take up Jesus’ mission of self-giving. The Eucharist is the centerpiece of our lives, challenging us: our identity is our mission – self-giving.

Vincentian Meditation:

The Manual of the Society states: The Eucharist plays a major role in Vincentian spirituality. This is seen in the lives of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic. Vincent spent one hour each morning before the Blessed Sacrament before celebrating Mass. He would frequently make short visits to the chapel before leaving and upon returning from his responsibilities. Frederic attended Mass daily whenever possible. And a day did not go by, when Frederic would make a short visit to the Blessed Sacrament in one of the churches in Paris as he made his way to an appointment. Both Vincent and Frederic discovered what the Church teaches today: the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life; it augmented their union with Jesus, strengthened their charity and committed them to the poor. (US Manual, P.31-32)

Discussion: (Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence)

How can you make the Eucharist play a prominent place in your life, as it did in Frederic and Vincent’s?

Closing Prayer:

Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a sign of love,
-may the poor and outcasts find a place at your table.
Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a sign of unity,
-may we embrace diversity with reverence and open hearts.
Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a bond of charity,
-may we be living signs of your presence in our midst.
Christ Jesus, your Eucharist is a pledge of future glory,
-may you welcome home all who have died believing in you.
Amen.

