

Walking with the Lord

Holy Cross Parish Honours the Great Gift of the Eucharist

For nearly ten years, Holy Cross Parish has celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ in a particular way, by processing through the streets of Norwood, in Winnipeg.

John Scatliff, the Parish Life Director, and Deacon Gilles Urquhart explain how the love of the Eucharist animates this decision to publicly honour the Lord on this most special Sunday.



Roughly 125 parishioners and friends of Holy Cross Parish processed through the streets of Norwood on June 23rd to show their devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The lay faithful and members of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus accompanied Father John McKenzie and Deacon Gilles Urquhart, who held up a monstrance for all to see.

The group prayed, sang the *Ave Maria*, prayed the Rosary and, on three separate occasions, set up a small altar, where prayers were said for all the people of the world. At each stop, Deacon Gilles Urquhart read a different Gospel reading, to which the processors responded by singing the *Pange Lingua*, the celebrated Gregorian chant composed by Saint Thomas Aquinas.



A fourth Gospel reading and prayers were also recited when the group returned to Holy Cross church, completing the prayers for people of the four corners of the Earth.

John Scatliff, the Parish Life Director, notes that Corpus Christi has been celebrated in this particular manner for almost ten years. “It all started with Father Martin Bradbury, who had a special love of the Eucharist. He organized the first big procession, where we went all the way to Provencher Boulevard, accompanied by a police escort.



spirit.”

“Of course, we have a tradition of Eucharistic Adoration. Holy Cross has an Adoration Chapel. Over the years, our chapel has helped parishioners and the faithful from all over the diocese to develop a deeper appreciation for the Eucharist. And so, our procession is very much a part of our community’s

At Mass, after reading the Gospel of Luke’s discourse on the Multiplication of the Loaves (Luke 9, 11b-17), Deacon Gilles Urquhart’s homily delved deeply into the importance of being nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The deacon whetted the appetite of the congregation and made several telling points by also quoting Catholic author J. R. R. Tolkien:

Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament. There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves on earth.

“This is what love is all about: Jesus giving himself in love to us, completely and without reservation on the Cross, and our responding to this love, returning it. Is that not romance? Spiritual romance, and the most profound encounter of authentic love? We need only think of people in the Adoration Chapel. They look at Jesus, and He looks at them, with deep love.



“We also find glory in the Eucharist. Not glory for us, but the glory that belongs to Jesus, who died on the cross and rose triumphant. His victory brought Him great glory, a glory that we can only share because of Him.

“We find honour in the Blessed Sacrament. And it’s fitting that we go out into the streets with the Eucharist, giving honour to Jesus before the world. We publicly honour Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, because all honour belongs to Him.

“We also find fidelity in the Eucharist. There’s never a Mass that Jesus didn’t show up at! Maybe we didn’t show up, but never Him. He’s always faithful. In the Eucharist, He gives us the grace to return His fidelity. We can respond to that faithfulness with our faithfulness to Him, and to His Eucharist.

“Jesus gives Himself completely and without reservation in the Eucharist. We are called to imitate that self donation, as we give ourselves to our family, as we give to the poor, as we give to the world. With the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts, we imitate this true way of love. Real love offers sacrifices. And that is why what happens on the altar is rightly called a sacrifice, and why we as the baptized are a priestly people – because we are also called to offer the sacrifice of our lives for one another.”



To view photos of the Corpus Christi Mass and procession, [click here](#).

