



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: 1st Friday at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

June 30, 2019, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 891): 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21, Ps.16: 1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Gal 5: 1, 13-18 Luke 9:51-62

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Eric Bertrand • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, Johannes Ploog •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints•

Corpus Christi: when you are hungry, does thinking about a hamburger do the job?

Many people today, especially younger people, say that they believe in God, and that they are on a spiritual quest, but they also say that they do not need an organized religion to help them. We are gathered here for the Sunday Eucharist in All Saints – like every week. And Sunday's Mass will make the question especially poignant.

Let me put things in the worst light: *"Why would you Catholics go each week to be handed a flat wafer called a "host" and perhaps a small sip of wine? It seems like a lot of trouble to go to mass every Sunday, and it would appear to have very little to do with the spiritual quest on which so many people are journeying. Jesus emerged from the tomb because he was rooted in God-love."*

As Catholics, we answer that the host is no longer "bread" but has undergone a "transubstantiation." To put that in simpler terms, even though the host has an appearance of a piece of bread, its substance has been transformed from that of bread to that of Christ's body. The same goes for the wine.

Non-church believers might reply: *"Aren't God and spirituality something interior, something private? Wouldn't the point be that we should just help each other? Why can't we do it without all the paraphernalia, without all this 'body and blood' business?"*

Let's attempt an answer. Christian beliefs are a direct result of what we believe about Jesus. *Jesus is a "speaking-out" of God's love. *Jesus and the Father are one, as the scriptures attest. *Jesus died on the cross in a showdown between goodness and the forces of selfishness and greed. *Evil won. But at his depths, in his ultimate existence, Jesus Christ was deeper than evil. Jesus Christ was made of something stronger than either life or death. This something endured even though he was dead and buried. What was it? It was Love, the kind of love which the whole life of Jesus was an expression of.

*Jesus Christ was the direct expression of love, of God... *Jesus emerged from the tomb because he was rooted in God. *Then Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. It looked like he left us behind. *But he sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe so that he would still be present to us. *Pentecost was the full expression of this fact.

Fine so far, as our churchless brothers and sisters might agree: "But this Holy Spirit of God dwells deep in the wordless depths of a person. You have proved our point. We do not need ceremonies and ritual."

Are they right? Not quite. Look at it this way. When you are hungry and you want, say, a hamburger, does thinking about a burger do the job?

"Since your hunger is internal, why does it need an answer in the material world?" would be an argument against people who say faith is only something internal. *Hunger is something purely internal, faith is something purely internal* – this is nonsense. Faith is something internal, yes! But it also needs outward signs, outward expressions. We human beings do have "spiritual insides" and they are very important, but we have an *outside* too. We are not built to just stay within ourselves. We are built in addition to let our spirits walk, play, and even suffer in the material world. The Holy Spirit's presence at the depths of our being makes us desire to find Jesus with our eyes, ears, nose, tongue and hands.

And that is why we go to Church. In order to find the answer to our *spiritual* quest, in the real, fleshly presence of Christ. At Mass, a ritual, we find *presence* given to our senses in Communion. It comes from the *exterior*, and it fulfills our "*interior, spiritual and physical yearning*". Are you hungry for Christ? Come and eat. You are what you eat, you know.

cf: http://liturgy.slu.edu/BodyBloodC062319/reflections_foley.html