

June 22, 2014  
Feast of Corpus Christi  
The Body & Blood of Christ

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### Christ With Us

My Dear Brothers and Sisters.

As Jesus, after his death and resurrection, was ascending to heaven, he said to the disciples: And I shall be with you until the end of time. God has never been away from us since creation. Let us for a moment count the ways and see the meaning of the word: *Emmanuel*, The Lord is with us.

God is with us as our Creator. We read in the first chapter of Genesis: And God created us. In the image of God, God created us. Male and female God created us. In the second chapter we read: And then God took earth and transformed the already created matter into the human body and breathed the Spirit of life into it, and they together formed our humanity. And God said: *It is good*. That is why we should never separate the body and the soul, call one evil and the other good, and then set them against one another in a mortal combat, as it has been done in our history so many times. The union of body and soul means to be human, and that is God's creation. Divide and conquer is the strategy of the evil one.

And then God came to us in the great mystery of the Incarnation. Jesus did not come to us as a spirit, but as we read in the Scriptures: God became flesh and dwelt among us, and that is why we call Jesus the Son of God and the son of Mary, a union between heaven and earth. We are not spirit and we are not flesh, but the union of the spiritual and the physical. And ever since we can say: *Emmanuel*, The Lord is with us.

And then at the last supper Jesus breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit, and He also broke the bread and raised the cup saying: This is my body, and this is my blood, leaving His presence here with us, in and among us, loving us deeply.

But all these we know for the present. What about the future, when Christ will come again at the end of time? I believe that the second coming of Christ will also reflect the final union of heaven and earth, the union between the creating Word of God, and the created Body of Christ, the Church, which meanwhile has become fully Christ-like through the working of the Holy Spirit. And then the Creator and the created will be one in Love ever lasting.

My dear Sisters and Brothers, what are we to do then? We are to listen to Jesus, the Word of God, and follow Him by doing what we hear, and so become more and more Christ-like as we wait for His coming again in glory. Amen.

Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ  
June 21 & 22, 2014

Rev. Frederick Daley  
All Saints Church, Syr., NY

Reflection for the first week-end of summer:

*from Wayne Muller:*

“In the relentless busyness of modern life, we have lost the rhythm between work and rest.

“All life requires a rhythm of rest. There is a rhythm in our waking activity and the body’s need for sleep. There is a rhythm in the way day dissolves into night, and night into morning. There is a rhythm as the active growth of spring and summer is quieted by the necessary dormancy of fall and winter. There is a tidal rhythm, a deep, eternal conversation between the land and the great sea. In our bodies, the heart perceptibly rests after each life-giving beat; the lungs rest between the exhale and the inhale.

“We have lost this essential rhythm. Our culture invariably supposes that action and accomplishment are better than rest, that doing something ---- anything ---- is better than doing nothing. Because of our desire to succeed, to meet these ever growing expectations, we do not rest. Because we do not rest, we lose our way. We miss the compass points that would show us where to go, we bypass the nourishment that would give us succor. We miss the quiet that would give us wisdom. We miss the joy and love born of effortless delight. Poisoned by this hypnotic belief that good things come only through unceasing determination and tireless effort, we can never truly rest. And for want of rest, our lives are in danger.” (p.1)

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*from Thomas Merton:*

“There is a pervasive form of contemporary violence ... [and that is] activism and overwork. The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence.

“To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything, is to succumb to violence.

“The frenzy of our activism neutralizes our work for peace. It destroys our own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of our own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful.” (p. 3 in Muller)

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*from Mahatma Gandhi:*

“There is more to life than merely increasing its speed...”

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*from Anthony DeMello:*

#### THE CONTENTED FISHERMAN

*The rich industrialist from the North was horrified to find the Southern fisherman lying lazily beside his boat, smoking a pipe.*

*‘Why aren’t you out fishing?’ said the industrialist.*

*‘Because I have caught enough fish for the day,’ said the fisherman.*

*‘Why don’t you catch more than you need?’ said the industrialist?*

*‘What would I do with it?’ asked the fisherman.*

*‘You could earn more money,’ was the reply. “With that you could have a motor fixed to your boat. Then you could go into deeper waters and catch more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats... maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me.’*

*‘What would I do then?’ asked the fisherman.*

*‘Then you could sit down and enjoy life,’ said the industrialist.*

*‘What do you think I am doing right now?’ said the contented fisherman!*

*(pp. 170-171)*

*Amen!*

*Sources:*

*1982 De Mello, S.J., Anthony THE SONG OF THE BIRD (Anand, India: Gujarat Sahitya Prakash).*

*1999 Muller, Wayne SABBATH (NY: Bantam Books)*