

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, June 2, 2024
Corpus Christi
Cycle B

A man named Scott entered the church and sat on a pew at the back. He heard the bell ring and saw the priest in white robe entering the sanctuary. He listened to the readings of the Word of God. He paid attention to the words and observed the motions. His heart was beating faster. When he heard the words of the priest: "This is my body...This is my blood", he knew it was really Jesus in the bread and wine. He wanted to stand up and shout: Hey, this is all in the Bible. This is great!

I just described Scott Hahn, a great theologian and author of many books. That was his first experience of the Holy Eucharist. He was a protestant at the time he encountered Jesus really present in the Holy Mass. Because of that event and led by the grace of God, he is now a Catholic professor, theologian, and author. Jesus in the Eucharist led him to conversion.

It is good to hear something like this about a person whose soul is seeking the Lord and whose heart is open to a powerful experience of the presence of God. I just hope that as Catholics we would have the same kind of disposition as we come to the celebration of the Eucharist. Rather than focusing on the negative things that we see and experience in the church.

Today's feast reminds us that something absolutely great is happening at Mass. The Mass is the center of all our activities as Catholics because it is the encounter with the Lord himself. We not only come to listen to his Word, nor merely to learn about him. We are not here to simply remember what he did. In the Eucharist, we meet him; we encounter the Lord in person.

We should always remember that the mass we are celebrating is the most beautiful event in the world. God is present. Jesus is here with us. And as the people of the Eucharist, we are called to bring that presence to others by the way we treat one another. As the saying goes, "we are what we eat". The more we receive Jesus in the Eucharist the more we should become like Him in many ways. Then we become the Eucharist to others.