

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Covenants with God and the human people: Eden. The rainbow. Circumcision. The Commandments.
Finally, in Christ is the most definitive and the final covenant: the cross and the blood of the Savior

Today is the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Last week was the feast of the Holy trinity. The week before that the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. To me there is nothing accidental in these three great feasts being celebrated one after another on three consecutive Sundays. The Spirit. The Father. The Son. Pentecost is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in f=definitive fashion. The Spirit takes charge in the lives of the apostles and those who believe in Jesus. The Spirit is the condition for the possibility of faith and mission and evangelization. There really is some Good News in the world with Christ. And the World needs to know that Good News and rejoice in it and live in it.

The presence of the Holy Spirit opens us up to the very mystery of God—One and Three. The Spirit enables us to enter the mystery and even to live it in our daily lives. It is that same Spirit that the priests summons at the consecration of the Mass to overshadow the gifts of bread and wine that have been brought to the altar and placed there as symbols of the People of God. The bread and wine will always look like bread and wine, taste like bread and wine, and appear to be bread and wine. But with the power of the Spirit these simple gifts are transformed into the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. That is the third of our great feasts. The Body and Blood of Christ.

Our God has desired to enter into defining relationships with us human beings almost from the moment of our fall from grace—and even before. The sign of the covenant will change and what is given will change and what is asked will change. But in Christ the cross will replace all the other covenants. The cross says it all. He was nailed to it. Freely and willingly. He was love and we killed him on it. His blood was the most precious reality there has ever been and he spent it all to show the lengths to which his Father's love would go to win us from sin and restore us to life—life that will never end. When you look at the cross or hold the cross for any length of time, the reality of it begins to take hold within you. There has never been anything like Jesus' death on the cross before nor will there ever be anything like it again. Do you realize that? That is the question of the week.