

**June 9-10, 2007**

**The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

**1999 Corpus Christi Catholic-Christian Community 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2007**

**Genesis 14:18-20**

**First Corinthians 11:23-26**

**Luke 9:11-17**

June, July and August...if asked what comes to mind when you mention these three months...a near-unanimous response is a resounding 'SUMMER!' Pushing the inquiry a bit further we might be amused to hear that the words, hot dogs, hamburgers, watermelon, corn-on-the-cob, barbecue, campfire, picnic, potato salad, coleslaw were close rivals to 'Summer' as defining these months. Food. Name a holiday and most of us can immediately conjure a traditional meal associated with it? What's your traditional meal for Thanksgiving? How about Fourth of July? How about Birthdays? Anything special on the table at Christmas or Ground Hog Day? Interestingly enough, the name of our parish, Corpus Christi, while certainly a doctrinal day of great importance to our Catholic-Christian faith...is actually a food. When Jesus offered us the Eucharist during the Last Supper, he provided us his Body and Blood not to be admired from a distance...but to be consumed: 'This is my body, take and eat. This is my blood, take and drink.' Food is prepared and consumed for multiple reasons: to be enjoyed, to nourish our bodies, to restore our strength, to celebrate an event, to provide comfort. Throughout the past eight years, our weekly and seasonal gatherings as a parish have done all of these things for the individuals and families of our Corpus Christi Community. Yes, we have gathered to celebrate Mass and receive Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. BUT...we have also gathered to be nourished with the Body and Blood of each other through our shared prayers and endeavors. Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass we in turn have become food for each other. Newfound relationships have expanded our worlds, we have found the strength to provide ministry and outreach to people far and wide, we have been comforted by the presence of Jesus Christ dwelling within us and assisting us in our everyday struggles. As a parish, the task is not to simply be content with feeding ourselves but to sacrificially open ourselves to become food for those who do not have a community/family such as ours. The Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi, exists to be consumed, and through the grace of God, continually renewed. With all the talk of healthy eating and organic this and free-range that, the Body and Blood of Christ is for us people of faith the ultimate health and comfort food. Borrowing from the Milk Advisory Board ad campaign, an apt expression for today might be 'Got Corpus Christi?' Happy Anniversary!

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi Community for our 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a parish. Established in 1999, much has happened in our short history since that Sunday morning when we gathered with Bishop Tod in the Aliso Viejo Middle School Courtyard to take our place as the Roman Catholic Parish for Aliso Viejo. Following each of our Masses this weekend you are invited to linger and enjoy our expanded hospitality receptions prepared by our post-Mass Hospitality Team. Special thanks to Chef Bill Barber for his gift of food and preparation! Last call to make a reservation for THIS TUESDAY'S 'Men of Faith Leadership Dinner' at Salt Creek Grill...reservation forms are available on the Concierge Shelves. Also, we still have not heard from a WHOLE BUNCH of you regarding your FREE Parish Directory Photo appointment...go online ([www.avcatholics.org](http://www.avcatholics.org)) and make your reservation before it is too late...PLEASE! Bulletins await you as you depart with all sorts of news pertaining to upcoming events...please take one with you. As you sip and nosh and enjoy being 8, remember, you are loved. FKB