

**“If We Only Have Love...”**

On this Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we celebrate and share the great gift of Love that God has given us—the gift of Jesus, God’s Son and our brother, in the Eucharist.

In the sacrifice on Calvary, we experience the ultimate gift of love—the self-giving of Jesus for our sake. We, as disciples of Jesus, are to become what we eat and drink. In the Eucharist, we are strengthened to imitate Jesus’ love and to be the sacrifice for others as He was for us. This gift of Love is all transforming. If we risk taking the Christ in, God can recreate our lives and the world around us. The Eucharist can make us think the unthinkable, and dream the undreamable. It will help us to create a new heaven and a new earth!

The lyrics of “If We Only Have Love” by Jacques Brel, from his play, “Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris,” speak to me of the essence of the transforming power of the Eucharist:

*“If we only have love, then tomorrow will dawn,  
And the days of our years will rise on that morn...  
If we only have love to embrace without fears,  
We will kiss with our eyes; we will sleep without tears...  
If we only have love, with our arms open wide,  
The young and the old will stand at our side...  
If we only have love, love that’s falling like rain  
Then the parched desert earth will grow green again...  
If we only have love for the hymn that we shout,  
For the song that we sing, then we’ll have a way out...  
If we only have love, we can reach those in pain,  
We can heal all our wounds; we can use our own names...  
If we only have love, we can melt all the guns,  
And then give the new world to our daughters and sons...  
If we only have love, then Jerusalem stands,  
And then death has no shadows; there are no foreign lands...  
If we only have love, we will never bow down,  
We’ll be tall as the pines, neither heroes nor clowns...  
If we only have love, then we’ll only be men  
And we’ll drink from the grail to be born once again...  
Then with nothing at all, but the little we are  
We’ll have conquered all time, all space, the sun and the stars.”*

Our God wants to feed us. Over and over again, we are invited to feast at the Lord’s Table. Each Sunday we eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ. God’s Love is given to us. We are called to become what we eat and drink. The love poured out for us is, in turn, the love we are called to pour out for others.

If the world is to be transformed into ever greater goodness and wholeness, it is up to us to “take in” and to “give out” what God gives to us.

Are we up to the task? Are we willing to risk?