Pastor's Column

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"As We Approach The Altar…"

On this ***Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ***, as we approach the altar, let us reflect upon the words of those who have gone before us:

St. Augustine:

"The Lord left us in this sacrament his body and blood. Now we are called to become his body, and through his mercy, we are what we receive.

Just as you see that the bread is one loaf, so may you be one body by loving one another, by having one faith, one hope, and undivided charity.

Thus too, the wine existed in many clusters of grapes and now it is one. It is one in this cup after the crushing of the grapes in the wine press.

And now, you, in the name of Christ, have come to drink of the cup of the Lord. There you are on the table, and there you are in the cup, for you are one with us. We receive together, and we drink together because we live together."

St. Ignatius of Antioch:

"Come together in common, one and all without exception in charity, in one faith and in one Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of man, so that with undivided mind you may break one bread which is the medicine of immortality and the remedy against death, enabling us to live for ever in Jesus Christ."

St. John Chrysostom:

"God gave one house for all of us to dwell in.
It is called the world.
God distributed all created things equally.
God kindled one sun for all;
stretched above us one roof, the sky;
and set up one table, which is the earth.

But God also gave us a much greater table than this.
It is the table of one loaf and one cup.
We have been made rich and one in this bread and wine.

Then, whence comes the great inequality of conditions of life?
From greed and arrogance!

But let this be no longer.
Since we are made one in this meal,
let us not be driven asunder
by envy, greed, jealousy, and hatred.
All these are grand illusions for those
who partake of the meal of eternal life.

May this meal we share
preserve this unity unbroken."

Fr. Mike