



Solemnity of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ

This will be the strangest celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ---more familiar to most of us as Corpus Christi---in my lifetime.

Separated from our communities of worship, most of us are connecting through the excellent virtual Masses our parishes are providing. A small percentage of us are venturing back to the churches that are open, wearing masks and keeping our distance.

But keeping our distance from the Eucharist is an oxymoron. *Draw near to me*, says Jesus. *Remain in me*. But how does one draw close to the Body and Blood of Christ when one is home, worshipping from the bedroom?

I've been thinking a lot about hummingbirds during this quarantine. Think of the effort it takes for the hummingbird to extract nectar from a flower. It must hover in mid-air, flapping its wings at rates up to 80 flaps a second. And it *remains* in that posture, using every ounce of its strength, until it has all the sugars it needs to fuel its rapid flight.

Are you *hovering* near Jesus as you watch the thousands of young people who are peacefully begging for real change? Drink from the life-giving nectar of their thundering calls for conversion of heart.

Are you using this sacred time at home to *draw near* to spiritual reading you may have neglected in the past? There is an explosion of magnificent Catholic writing all over the 'net, and I'll bet your own library at home has some great books---maybe something of St. Augustine, or C.S. Lewis---you haven't discovered yet.

We aren't together in our churches quite yet, but we *remain in the Body*. Hover close, and drink.

How are you enriching your spiritual life during this quarantine?