

Today we celebrate a glorious occasion.
Yesterday, 3 men of this Archdiocese in
Indiana were ordained *sacerdos in aeternum*,
priests forever.
Today one of the sons of this parish has
become a priest, a very unlikely one I might
add.
Such an event is cause for great rejoicing!
Truly for great rejoicing!
We celebrate that 3 more men have laid down
their whole lives for the service of God and
his people.
And throughout the whole world, the Church
celebrates the feast of Corpus Christi, the
Most Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus
Christ.
This day celebrates the gift of God to
mankind, the fact that God the Father sent
his only begotten Son to us, and this same
Son laid down his life for us all.
This Son of God gave us the Eucharist, his
very own body, blood, soul, and divinity.
On the surface it may seem that we have come
to celebrate my ordination to the
priesthood.
Truly I tell you, we have all come here to
celebrate a wedding feast.
Who is being wed?
Well, Jesus, the Son of God, is the
bridegroom.
And we, his Church, are his bride.
Even if you didn't realize it, you all did
received an invitation. Yes on the surface, it
was from me, but truly I tell you, it is the
bridegroom who called you here.
Everyone here has answered this call by
showing up.
And we shall celebrate this great wedding feast
by feasting what on the surface looks like
ordinary bread.

But truly I tell you, it is *Corpus Christi*, it is the
body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus
Christ, your bridegroom.
How did we arrive here? God marrying me
sounds a bit strange. This wedding imagery
seems like a bit of a stretch, you might say.
Well, let's look at Scripture for some clues.
[pause]

Isaiah describes our relationship with God
like this:

*For as a young man marries a virgin, your
Builder shall marry you;
And as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall
your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)*

This imagery God as a builder makes sense in
the Old Testament, Israel always seems to be
building a temple, a house for God to dwell
in.

Here's the thing, God always planned to build
his temple on Earth. In the beginning God
dwelt with Man in Paradise. Israel had a
tent, then Solomon built a wood temple,
and then later a stone one was built.

But God wasn't satisfied with a stone temple,
that was not his original plan, he wanted to
build a living temple.

The Israelites saw the temple as the center or
the heart of the world, the place where God
chose to dwell. The place the Creator dwelt
was certainly the center of creation.

We often use this imagery of a heart to
describe the center or fundamental part of
something. Sometimes we say, "that spoke
to my heart," which is to say "that spoke to
the depths of my soul, to my very identity."
God speaks to this identity of the human
person when he built up humanity from the
clay. God is the builder who builds living
things. God breathed life into that hunk of
clay and humanity was born.
Then...tragedy struck.

From the human perspective, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment by eating from the tree while in the garden.

But they disobeyed God not simply because the fruit looked appetizing. No, they were told that God was suspect, that he could not be trusted.

After all, how could someone trustworthy withhold something so good from you unless...they had their own self-interests at heart rather than your own.

Then Adam & Even were banished from paradise and punished with pain and toil. And humanity has been plagued with sin, division, and death ever since.

That is one perspective.

What if instead, we look at this event from God's perspective.

First, we must understand that by his very nature, God is perfect love.

Love that looks like laying one's own interests and even one's life down for the good of another.

Love that looks like the Beloved receiving the love from the Lover and rejoicing at such a gift.

This is the nature of Love,
this is the nature of God.

Before time began, the three persons of the Godhead decided that they wanted to share their love with creatures fashioned in their own image. They would name this creature Man.

God went to work building a whole cosmos for this creature to live in. Man would have everything needed to live,
food, water, a place to rest, paradise;
God would provide everything.

After he built Man from the clay, God saw how very good everything was. And God

would walk with Man in the garden and grew in relationship with him.

God yearned to make Man more and more like himself, so God gave Man free will and another creature like himself to love to be loved.

But then, despite all that humanity was given, they turned away from their Creator and betrayed Him.

Humanity severed their relationship with their Creator and fled from His presence. His beloved was now cursed to wander through a foreboding and hostile world riddled with perilous danger and an insatiable longing to love and to be loved.

God, though heartbroken that His beloved would flee, did not give up hope.

God sought to win his beloved back.

He sought to refashion his creatures after his own heart,
and to dwell with them once again.

In the fullness of time, God sent his own Son into the world to redeem them, to buy back humanity, from the perilous world they had chosen. Christ came to teach man the way back to the heart of God the Father.

Before, Jesus left this earth, he built and refashioned a people after his own heart. He invited people to follow him and to become his family.

We entered into a covenant with God at our baptism. God has united, wed himself to us. He is the ever-faithful spouse.

He taught his people what it means to love, to lay one's life down for another and to receive the greatest gift anyone could ever receive, the very heart of God himself; the Eucharist.

But in order to receive this sacred gift, he first made a covenant with humanity. He commanded his disciples to baptize all nations. Through baptism, we could become

adopted sons and daughters of God, we could be family. And God breathes his Spirit into us, thereby making us living temples, His living temples.

By our baptism, we are God's temple, the dwelling place of God.

And by this Eucharist, we receive the very heart of God.

Every Mass, we are invited to receive the heart of the bridegroom, the heart of Jesus.

This is what we are invited to every Sunday, every Mass.

God calls us from the darkness of the world, he calls us forth from the perilous world into a relationship with Himself.

Like Adam & Eve, we have a choice.

God has invited us to make him the center of our very being.

We can choose to receive and rejoice at the reception of God's heart in the Eucharist, or we can turn our backs, and flee from him every Sunday.