



## *Reflection from Joni Dugan*

As I was getting ready to write this reflection, I was deluged with many memories. I had to get my head around all these thoughts and memories. Whoa --- I thought this was suppose to be a reflection on this Sunday's readings: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. Well, in thinking about this feast, I can and probably you as well do have memories of processions in the small town, gold vestments, a monstrance, processions around church and best Sunday clothes. And that's okay: Memories are great. And we are not alone.

We see in the first reading today how even Moses talked about memories --- He says "Remember this" and "Remember that" and all that journeying in the desert, all the affliction, all the manna and how the Lord fed his people. And then the liturgy in the Gospel jumps right into Jesus saying to the Jewish crowds "I am the living bread that came down from heaven." Okay, we see the comparison between Manna and Jesus saying he is the living bread. BUT he goes a step farther and says "whoever eats this bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." And to make matters worse: he goes on and says "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you". Wow! That is strong. But we so often miss the point. Jesus' life within us means Jesus' abiding presence. Jesus' abiding presence within each of us. Any act of love on our part stems from that inner presence. It's like Fr Garry said last week that we are all connected. We may look different, but we are all bound together. We all have been given that food and drink of the Lord --- we have all been given that gift of the divine abiding presence. We are all in relationship to God and with each other. We are all connected and that connection is Love.

God is being present to us in so many ways: in our own DNA rooted inside of us, in our life experiences, whether full of troubles and tribulations or not, in the loves of our lives – our parents, spouse, sibs, children, pets, in our work relationships, in our St James relationships and even in our enemies. This feast of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, (Corpus Christi) celebrates the presence of the Lord in our lives. It celebrates all those relationships. It celebrates that we are all in communion with each other. It may be at times hard to digest -- I may want out. Relationships can be messy. But that is the beauty of community. The community is here to support us and we are here to support the community. This feast calls us to live in solidarity with all. All? You gotta be kidding! All? Really?

Richard Rohr in his book *The Universal Christ*, says "Presence is always reciprocal, or it is not presence at all." May we all celebrate this presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in each other today and every day, remembering that Presence is indeed reciprocal.

*Peace,  
Joni*