OUR LORD GOES OUT ONTO THE STREETS OF PAGAN POLAND

Bp. Michał Stobnicki

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Dear faithful, we gather today on this thoroughly Catholic feast, the feast of Corpus Christi, to pay homage to the Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. We hear the words of the Gospel in which Christ the Lord says: "My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed." And we marvel, just as the Jews did who heard these words from the lips of the Lord Jesus 2000 years ago. We wonder how it is possible for the Lord Jesus to feed us with His body and His blood, with that body which, as the Savior announces, gives eternal life.

After a moment we recall everything that the Church has taught about the Blessed Sacrament. We recall everything we heard in catechism lessons while preparing for our First Holy Communion. We realize that the Savior, the conqueror of death, hell and Satan, He who ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father almighty, that same Savior wished to remain with us men here on earth: defenseless, silent, like a child, a prisoner of love imprisoned in the tabernacle, hidden under the sacramental species of bread and wine.

Truly, dear faithful, the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest of the seven sacraments of the New Covenant, because it not only gives us grace but contains within itself the very Giver of grace, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is present in the white host with His body, blood, soul and divinity, truly, really, substantially, as the Catholic Church teaches. When we eat our daily bread, we ennoble it in a certain sense, because from a dead thing it becomes part of our human body. With the Blessed Sacrament, with Holy Communion, it is the other way round, for it is we who are ennobled through the divine food, the bread of angels, which, without any merits of our own, is given to us to receive here on earth. It is the Blessed Sacrament that transforms us, that makes us like the Savior Himself.

REPARATION FOR INSULTS

And we need, my dear ones, on this feast of Corpus Christi in the year of Our Lord 2025, to renew our faith in the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In this time in which that faith is being destroyed, attacked by so many false prophets, who hand the Body of the Lord over as prey to sinners, who allow it to be desecrated, trampled by human paws on the floors of once-Catholic churches. It seems that we live in a time in which the pseudo-Catholic hierarchy, the functionaries of the new church, seem to have completely forgotten the warning we heard from the lips of Saint Paul the Apostle: "Whosoever shall eat this bread, or drink the chalice of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord."

That is why we wish, on this feast of Corpus Christi, through these outward acts of love — flowers, singing, our attitude full of adoration, our bent knees — to make reparation to the Lord Jesus for so many insults, blasphemies, sacrileges, for human indifference.

Dear faithful, for many years we have watched solemn processions set out on the feast of Corpus Christi. And surely more than once we have asked ourselves the question: why, in fact, is the Lord Jesus carried outside the church? Why is He led out onto the streets of our towns and villages? And should we not ask the opposite question? Why does the Lord Jesus desire to go out today beyond the walls of this church? He desires to go out today, outward, to His people.

QUO VADIS, DOMINE?

Dear faithful, we could repeat the question that Saint Peter the Apostle once asked: *Quo vadis, Domine?* Where are You going, Lord? "Peter, I am going to Rome to be crucified there again." 2000 years ago Saint Peter was fleeing from pagan Rome, out of fear of persecution, of death at the hand of the vile Caesar Nero. The Lord Jesus, wishing to give him courage, wishing to remind him that being an apostle, being a Catholic, may involve the necessity of shedding one's own blood, appeared to him as Peter was fleeing from Rome.

Today the Lord Jesus goes out onto the streets of our Polish towns and villages, as pagan as that Rome of the time of Nero. Our homeland, filled today with godlessness, with indifference, filled with hatred for all that is of God, does not differ at all from that pagan Rome.

Today all across Poland numerous processions will pass — or perhaps we should rather say: strolls, because hardly anyone realizes why Corpus Christi is still celebrated at all. Today the echo of our beautiful Eucharistic hymns will be carried along. And yet before long the wind will blow away the flower petals with which innocent girls strew the way for the Lord Jesus today, and with them faith and reverence toward the Blessed Sacrament will vanish, before which tomorrow almost no one will bend his knees.

Quo vadis, Domine? Where are You going, Lord? "To Łowicz I am going today, to be crucified there."

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Praised be Jesus Christ. Amen.