



Daily Reflections

September 12, 2016

Scripture

1 Corinthians 11: 17-33

Brothers and sisters:

In giving this instruction, I do not praise the fact that your meetings are doing more harm than good.

First of all, I hear that when you meet as a Church there are divisions among you, and to a degree I believe it; there have to be factions among you in order that also those who are approved among you may become known.

When you meet in one place, then, it is not to eat the Lord's supper, for in eating, each one goes ahead with his own supper, and one goes hungry while another gets drunk.

Do you not have houses in which you can eat and drink? Or do you show contempt for the Church of God

and make those who have nothing feel ashamed?
What can I say to you? Shall I praise you?
In this matter I do not praise you.
For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, "This is my Body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my Blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.
Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

Our Scripture Reflection

Paul is furious about the lack of unity and charity that is taking place at, of all places, Church!

For Paul, those who harm the Body of Christ, the Church, by their bad behavior are just as guilty as the soldiers were of harming Christ's physical body on Calvary. His advice: Be careful and think before you eat.

Food for your Journey

In her memoir *Girl Meets God*, Lauren Winner writes about the importance of communion to her spiritual life. "The eucharist, mass and communion all have their place," she writes, "but I want to start a campaign to revive an older name for the eucharist: the Viaticum.

"Viaticum was a Roman term: It designated the food, clothes and money that a Roman magistrate took with him when he traveled on state business. It was the necessities he needed to get him through his trip. In the early church, Christians called the host you gave to one on the verge of death the viaticum. Like the money and food that outfitted the Roman envoy for his

journey, the host was the provision dying Christians needed as they stepped out on their journey from this world to the sweet hereafter.

“Sometimes, early Christians used viaticum to designate not just the deathbed eucharist but any eucharist. The eucharist, the Viaticum, was the necessities for our journey through this life. It was, in the words of one minister, ‘the sacrament of maintenance.’ It is like what the angel said to the exhausted and broken prophet Elijah, collapsed in a sleep under a broom tree. The angel waked him and said, ‘Arise and eat, else the journey will be too great for you.’

“And that is the eucharist. If I did not eat, the journey would be too great.”

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You died on the Cross and gave us Your very body and blood in the Holy Eucharist. May I always be keenly aware of the price You paid for my soul and behave accordingly. Amen.