



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



HOMILY FOR CORPUS CHRISTI MASS AND PROCESSION St. Patrick Cathedral Sunday, June 26, 2011

When I was growing up in central Illinois, life in the Midwest was first defined in many ways by Route 66. Later on this (at least parts of it) became known as I-55. This stretch of highway had many aspects to it: the crowded interchanges around Chicago, where people join the many people already on the highway. The adding of so much traffic to already congested lanes can contribute to confusion, wrong turns, and sometimes accidents. Yet, those journeying keep going on, to the more tranquil stretches downstate which are surrounded by corn and soybeans. The pace picks up again around St. Louis with its various interchanges, as the highway eventually heads south toward Memphis, Jackson, and Mobile. Yet, a constant facet of I-55 are the rest stops, which are in all parts of the highway; places where the travelers can stop for rest, refreshment and renewal, and community.

I believe the image of I-55 can be like the pilgrimage journey of our lives. Often here in North Texas, we find ourselves being joined in the road trip of life by many others coming to join us: new Catholics, new friends, old and new relationships, and people coming to our community of Faith here in North Texas. Some are even moving from other parts of the country or are new immigrants. The addition of so many new people is just like all of the extra traffic joining an already busy highway: there are bound to be wrong turns, accidents, and misunderstandings and confusion. Yet, if the Eucharist, the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord is also called "Food for Travelers," then is not Corpus Christi a reminder that we have a rest stop just like the ones on I-55? But one that is already with us in the midst of our journey and not off on the side of the road or highway. He is with us for refreshment amidst the complex moments of our life journey, and the more tranquil ones as well (just like I-55 in central Illinois!)

The procession with the carrying of the Monstrance with the Sacrament is a visible reminder that the Lord is here, in our midst, and that He journeys with us each day. Indeed, as He said "I am with you always." On this day, we can pause, refreshed once more by the true presence of Christ, in the midst of daily life, and we can pray with Psalm 116 of Evening Prayer II for the day: "How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me? The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name!"

+ Bishop Kevin W. Vann

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • www.fwdioc.org