



## **CORPUS CHRISTI IS THE CELEBRATION OF GOD'S COVENANT OF ETERNAL LOVE WITH MAN**

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### **ABUJA, NIGERIA -**

The reception of the Body of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament has been described as a spiritual reinvigoration of the soul and a fulfillment of God's love for us in spite of our shortcomings. Making this assertion in his homily at the celebration of the Mass for this year's Corpus Christi, Rev. Fr. Evaristus Bassey noted that the Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) celebration is a mystery of God's faithfulness in his covenant with man.

Speaking to the faithful of Archangel Gabriel Chaplaincy, Durumi, Abuja; Fr. Bassey noted that Corpus Christi is the celebration of the covenant of God's eternal love for man; made first by God the Father with Abraham the father of mankind; as contained in the Old Testament, and renewed by Christ with his body and blood by dying on the Cross, as contained in the new Testament.

Using the readings of the day to buttress his point, Fr. Bassey, who is the Executive Secretary of Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN); noted that God the Father made a covenant with Abraham, for the entire human race, performing the necessary rituals and giving Abraham, the privilege of not going through the rigours of the covenant rights. This covenant, the homilist continued, our Lord Jesus Christ cemented with his body and blood in the new covenant; as contained in the New Testament.

“God is always faithful in his covenant promises while man can default”; an indication that God’s love for us is beyond comprehension, the homilist added. He continued: “In the new covenant, Christ the Priest is the sacrifice and the Cross on which he died is the altar”.

Fr. Bassey, explained further that the covenant of the Old Testament cleanses basically the external while Christ’s covenant cleanses both the outside and inside. Confirming the relationship between the two covenants, the homilist referred to Christ saying that he has not come to abolish anything but to fulfill.

Describing the celebration as a major mystery of the Catholic faith, Fr. Bassey outlined three lessons for receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. He stated that in the Blessed Sacrament that we receive: “Christ gives us his whole self, body blood and divinity; we encounter Christ always in the Eucharist; and Jesus is accessible to all through the Blessed Sacrament for joy and miracle”.

The CCFN Chief Executive Officer added that when we receive Christ in the Eucharist, we become renewed, strong and better stressing the need to pause and pray for ourselves and others after receiving the Eucharist. He added that in the new covenant, Jesus gave his life and love that can never die.