

## ***Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)*** ***June 23, 2019***

*“The Holy Eucharist is, then, the flower of the Incarnation, the completion of all the mysteries of the Redeemer’s life as Man.”*

*(John Kane, Transforming Your Life through the Eucharist, p. 6)*

As I read this line, quoted above from Mr. Kane’s book, I could not help but reflect upon the word **Flower**. I have become accustomed to the beautiful flower arrangements which have been placed upon our altar. This weekend, instead of solely viewing these flowers as decorations, I will relate their significance as reminders concerning the spiritual growth and ultimate fulfillment of our lives.

*“Notice how the flowers grow. They do not toil or spin. But I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of them.”* (Luke 12:27) Flowers are one of God’s beautiful creations. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors, etc. Some grow wild and others demand a great amount of attention. Some remind us of special moments in our lives, while others remind us to take our allergy medication. They can be used to symbolize our feelings for each other. Flowers can be used as an example of a person’s life from birth to death. We can see why various Old and New Testament verses mention the flowers of the field.

Mr. Kane used the term “flower” to remind us of the completion of the ministry of Jesus Christ. As a bud sprouts, grows slowly, and finally blossoms, so too did the life of Jesus from the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem. The Eucharist, which we celebrate today, is the fully blossomed flower open for all humanity to see. It is the glory of Jesus’ continual presence with mankind. The flowers on the altar should remind us of the beauty of His presence in the Eucharist. In both the altar flowers present in the vase and the Eucharist present in the Tabernacle we see gifts given to humanity solely because God loves us.

Not only do these flowers remind us of the full glory of Jesus present in the Eucharist, they can also remind us that the full beauty of our lives can only be realized when we are glorifying God through our lives. Like our Savior, we too began this life as a small bud. God, the divine florist, knows completely each bud and chooses what care each flower needs and receives. As some flowers take more effort for them to realize the full potential of their beauty, some of us will require more time and effort to see the full beauty of our life in Christ. God chooses to take this time and carefully tend to each of us. The storms we encounter in life will undoubtedly wound the flowers. God has anticipated these storms of life. He has provided each flower (us) with the necessary water and fertilizer (Grace) to realize our full beauty. Yes, there are times when we feel like a cacti in arid regions (as we struggle through life), but even cacti can produce beautiful flowers.