

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
IN THE OCTAVE OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Gospel: Saint Luke 14: 16-24

God honors us by inviting us to receive
Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist

50.1 First Point

You are the ones whom the Eternal Father today invites to his banquet in order to receive his Son, Jesus Christ, in the Eucharist. Worldly people excuse themselves from attending. One says that he has bought a farm and must therefore go out and inspect it; another wishes to test five yoke of oxen which he has acquired; a third says that he is married.³⁴⁵ Some excuse themselves because of their business, others because of the pleasures they want to enjoy. Both prefer their affairs and their personal satisfaction to the practices of piety and religion, and especially to the greatest honor they can ever enjoy on earth—and which should be supremely agreeable to them in this world—namely, to receive Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Deplore the blindness of those who live in the world and follow worldly maxims. They prefer temporal advantages to sharing in this most delightful food, which is Jesus Christ, who by coming to them makes them participants in the divinity itself.³⁴⁶

50.2 Second Point

It is hard to imagine that persons who are born for heaven, who in baptism have undertaken to live a holy life, should neglect the means given them by God to sanctify themselves, especially the greatest of these means, namely, Communion with the body of Jesus Christ. By uniting himself with them, he gives them in abundance the graces they are able to receive and which he has prepared for them.

If, as Our Lord says, the body is more important than the clothing,³⁴⁷ what is the body compared with the soul? Is it not more reasonable to disregard the body and everything temporal in order to think first of all of the soul and to provide what it needs?

If a king wanted to honor his people who were taken up with worldly concerns and proposed to visit them in their homes, would they offer him such frivolous excuses for not welcoming him? We can, therefore, with much reason apply to those who generally refuse to receive Communion because of their temporal affairs what Jesus Christ says in the gospel: When the Son of Man comes, that is, when he offers himself to be the spiritual nourishment of his people, do you think he will find faith on earth?³⁴⁸ Indeed, it is a lack of faith that makes people stay away from Communion.

50.3 Third Point

You have had the good fortune to withdraw from the world. In order to make yourselves worthy of your ministry, you must lead a life resembling that of the angels; therefore, you should consider yourselves fortunate to receive so frequently this bread of angels that Jesus Christ presents to you in person, with which he desires to satisfy you completely.

Could you, then, very well excuse yourself from such a delightful banquet at which a heart that loves God finds full satisfaction.

Jesus Christ tells us that what one person does not have will be taken away and given to another who already has.³⁴⁹ From this we may conclude, with regard to this holy sacrament, that the graces which would have been received by those who stay away are given to those who have the happiness to come.

To profit by such a great blessing, bestir yourself to receive Communion, and come with faith. You commit a great wrong if you excuse yourself from Communion, since you have so many opportunities to receive it with such great ease. Be convinced that no matter what excuse you give to Jesus Christ to dispense yourself from receiving him, he is not disposed to accept it.

345 Lk 14:18-20

346 2 Pt 1:4

347 Lk 12:23

348 Lk 18:8

349 Lk 19:26