2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

This interesting reading and inclusion of the Lauda Sion is specific for the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. It was written by Saint Thomas Aquinas around 1264 at the request of Pope Urban IV for this very special feast.

The hymn, sung like a Gregorian Chant, tells of the institution of the Eucharist and clearly expresses our belief the bread and wine presented at Mass become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ during the celebration of the Eucharist. After the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, it became an optional addition to the Solemnity.

Let’s see if we hear it this weekend!

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

“Honestly. It was like manna from heaven.” Haven’t we said that when describing a huge surprise that came upon us unexpectedly?

God bless that Moses! He may have been exasperated at the importance of the Israelite journeyers, and may have been a little himself! Imagine the whining of a child who is hungry or thirsty on a long car trip! Or, better yet, seeing a gas station sign on the way to Las Vegas when the needle is on empty. Ahhhh, manna from heaven! Although it’s just a temporary fix for the time being.

Moses was trying to make a point to the many. It was God who took care of them in their suffering. He reminded them that it was God who fed them with the bread-like substance called “manna.” He reminded them of God’s bringing forth water from the flinty rock.

God was working hard revealing himself to these faithful (and unfaithful) people on their journey. Moses just had to convince them that God was with them. They listened and they were thankful.

When have you had to be reminded of God’s ever-present love for you?

What was your most recent “manna from heaven” experience?
Conclude the prayer you have already been saying together:

Let us drink the cup together on our knees;  
When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising Sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

The prayer continues with the responsorial:

Responsorial
Psalm 147
Glorify the Lord,  
O Jerusalem;  
Praise your God, O Zion,  
For he has strengthened the bars of your  
gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.

R:  Alleluia.
He has granted peace in your borders;  
with the best of wheat he fills you.  
He sens forth his command to the earth;  
swiftly runs his word!

R:  Alleluia.
Her has proclaimed his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.  
He has not done thus for any other nation;  
his ordinances he has not made known to them.

R:  Alleluia.

Next week begins a six-part series on what it means to be beautifully baptized. We hope you enjoy.