

## HOMILY

### *The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ*

*Graduation Mass*  
*June 10, 2007 ~ 8 AM Liturgy*

**Rev. Andrew A. Czajkowski**  
**St. John the Evangelist Parish**  
**Davison, Michigan**

Of all the special gatherings throughout the year, I so look forward to the very one that is taking place here today. What an awesome moment it is to gather with you today, the graduating class of 2007. I have known many of you from way back when—even before you entered school—when many of you were just babes in arms and were being brought by your parents to be baptized!

As we gather with you on this beautiful morning, we thank God for this special chapter in your life. Do you realize how tall you walk as you stand here with us? But we're here not only to celebrate graduations because of past accomplishments, we're here to celebrate commencements—new beginnings, a fresh start. The future is a blank page that each of you must write for yourselves. No one else can do it for you. The time has come for us to hold our breath and let you go as you make your very own mistakes just as we did and as your children will. Do not let the cold cruelty of an indifferent world dampen your hopes or harden your hearts or destroy your dreams. Your ideals, zeal, energy and strength may yet redeem our fallen race and point the way to a future without boundaries—a tomorrow within reach. And best yet, no more homework (at least for the summer). Instead, you now must work hard to make a home

And what better day to talk about commencements than the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ? For on this very day we celebrate the gift that God gives us in the Eucharist—the Body and Blood of Christ. Just as the droves of people sat on the hillside hungry and in need of food, so, too, are we in need of food to satisfy our hungers—not physical hungers, but the hungers of our hearts. Just as Jesus gathered the night before he died with the ones whom he loved most in the world, so, too, are we the very ones whom he loves most in *this* world. If you take

anything with you as you go forth from us this day, it is that you never have to walk alone. Jesus wants to be your companion. Jesus wants to fill you with his life and power and purpose so that your lives may be maximized to the fullest.

As you commence on the rest of your life journey, call to mind the conversation in today's gospel story. "Jesus, the people are tired and hungry, what are we to do?" Jesus said, "Give them some food yourselves!" It is no different today than it was then. So many people, so many mouths to feed, so few disciples. When I think of this story, I think of a follower by the name of Teresa of Avila. Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless people. It is up to you now. You must become Jesus' hands, Jesus' feet, Jesus' eyes, and Jesus' heart.

Remember, there is always a place for you at his table. No matter where you go, you'll find a place ready for you. Stay close to Jesus and the Eucharist. Stay close to the family of Jesus, to the Church.