

Today I get to talk about one of my favorite topics: FOOD.

When was the last time you enjoyed a really good buffet?

Most of us at one time or another have found ourselves standing at the end of a buffet table scanning a long line of delectable meats, vegetables and desserts. It might be hard to believe but the concept of a large meal with an ample supply of food is not new to our modern culture.

Egyptian hieroglyphics record lavish meals; feasts composed of perfumed wine, tiny birds and exotic fruit.

Persian banquets included horses, camels, deer, and a variety of birds on the menu.

Even in more recent times, Bedouin tribes of North African desert regions honor dignitaries and celebrate weddings with banquets that contain what is considered by many to be the largest single dish served in the world: (Are you ready for this) eggs stuffed in fish that are then stuffed

into chicken; the chickens are then stuffed into sheep which are then stuffed into camels. After all this stuffing the entire entrée is roasted.

These lavish banquets are not your average faire and are presented to only special guests. The author of the book of Proverbs is very much aware of the popularity of banquets and so uses the scenario of a banquet feast to entice the hungry to find their sustenance at Wisdom's banquet table. The invitation is not limited to certain guests but is open to all who are hungry enough to hear and accept the invitation. If you come to Wisdom's feast you will be fed.

Wisdom's feast anticipates the meal that Jesus, the Son of God, presented to his disciples in the upper room the night before he died; a meal that we have gathered here to remember and take part in. It is a feast of Life that is here

for us. When we receive the sacred Body of Christ we receive his very life. Jesus makes this very clear in his discourse in the gospel today. He uses the term life or a derivative of the word 9 times in the gospel; I would say that is an indication that he is driving home a point to his followers; To share in this Eucharistic meal is to share in his life.

To share in the Life of Christ is to share his life with others; it does not mean that we keep him all to ourselves. The directive is to share Christ with others. The Prayer after Communion this week end says it best, “By becoming more like Christ on earth may we come to share his glory in Heaven.”

By becoming more like Christ, the events and interactions of our life take on a whole new meaning.

When we receive Christ from this altar we take Christ into

our life with us. Imagine what that will do to the plans that we have for this upcoming week. Think of all the opportunities in this next seven days when we can display Christ's love, forgiveness, compassion, and healing. Our lives lived in love and service here on earth will lead us together to the eternal banquet in Heaven; a feast that will be beyond anything we could ever imagine.