

Corpus Christi 6-3-18

Seamus Heaney was one of the great Irish poets of our time. The Nobel laureate's work reflected the profound spiritual connection between God's creation and the Irish soul...our soul. He was asked to contribute to a book on the spiritual lives of major figures in the arts and sciences. Spirituality, he replied, was one part of his life about which he felt he was woefully inarticulate. But he included a short poem, entitled "A Found Poem". Part of the poem was his memory of attending Mass in his village church.

Like everybody else, I bowed my head during the consecration of the bread & wine,
lifted my eyes to the raised host and raised chalice,
believed (whatever it means) that a change occurred.
I went to the altar rails and received the mystery on my tongue, returned to my place,
shut my eyes fast, made an act of thanksgiving, opened my eyes and felt
TIME STARTING UP AGAIN.

For Heaney, the act of taking bread and wine as Jesus did is "time starting up again."

Remember the processions of the Eucharist on the feast of Corpus Christi? Well there are three processions every Sunday. **The first** is when we come to this Church building and gather as a community. We greet one another or take time in silence to ponder. We remember what Jesus did the night before he died, we remember his life of selfless compassion and generous service proclaimed in the gospel. We remind ourselves that the love of God can re-create our world, a world that is broken in so many places and scarred on so many hearts.

The second procession is when we come forward to receive the sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In this sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, God enables us to "start time up again" in our lives by becoming what we receive here: becoming bread blessed and broken in love for one another as Christ was broken for us, sharing with one another the cup of every life's joys and sorrows in which God is constantly present.

The third procession is out the door to BE CHRIST'S PRESENCE in the world. I remember when Studs Turkel, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, was asked to submit (along with others) – in 50 words or less – his take on the meaning of life. He responded with four words: TO MAKE A DENT.

Think about that as we make the third procession through these doors today and make a dent, remembering that our God – who is good...all the time – is with you always.

