

■ RELIGION

Celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi

For The Expositor

Catholics throughout Brantford and Brant County came together this past Sunday to participate in the eucharistic procession on the solemn feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ).

In Canada, the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is observed on the Sunday following the Holy Trinity Sunday. It was established as a feast by Pope Urban IV in 1264 as a doctrinal and prayerful response to heretical teaching about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

For many years, St. Joseph's Parish in Brantford has conducted the tradition of the procession of the eucharist with prayers, the reading of a eucharistic gospel and benediction at four altar locations. This procession of the people of faith includes singing, the carrying of banners by organizations, such as C.W.L., Rosary Sodality and the Knights of Columbus.

St. Joseph's Church pastor, Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, reflected on this weekend's events.

"The Feast of Corpus Christi has a special meaning for me because I am reminded of the memorable religious experience by the people in my homeland in Poland. I am of course referring to the yearly procession of Corpus Christi.

"This celebration ... started out from every church and lasted one



Submitted Photo

More than 700 people take part in Sunday's procession to mark the feast of Corpus Christi.

hour. Each parish journeyed to four outside altars, which were set up along the way for benediction with the blessed sacrament. The procession made people feel that Christ was coming to visit their families in their homes as He came near. It was as if they were back in the time of Jesus who walked the streets and visited people's homes. To them, Jesus was equally present but in a different form.

"During the procession various hymns were sung. Afterwards, as a remembrance of the day, the people would take home some of the branches which decorated the altars. Some of them would keep the branches for a whole year until the next procession. People who par-

ticipated in this procession publicly profess their faith.

"Today in Canada there are some places with processions. I am extremely glad that Catholic churches of the deanery of Brantford (Brantford, Burford, Paris, Scotland) have been holding this procession for six years now. The procession always begins at St. Joseph's Church and ends with a benediction at St. Basil's Church. I share this experience from my youth with you because it helped to form my vocation to the priesthood and religious life.

"Last Sunday, I was so glad to see over 700 people from different churches attending the Corpus Christi procession."

