

Perpetual Adoration Newsletter

The EUCCHARIST

The Greatest of all Sacraments

The Summit of the Christian Life

The fulfillment of the Passover

The Incarnate Presence of Christ

Pope John Paul II: “The Holy Eucharist contains the Church’s entire spiritual wealth. It is the summit of Catholic devotion.”

(This month’s newsletter is excerpted from “The Eucharist” by Fr. Bill McCarthy)

The Greatest of all the Sacraments is the Eucharist. It is the summit of the Christian life. The greatest way to worship the Father, in spirit and in truth, is to celebrate the Mass, and to receive His Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. At the Mass, we offer the highest praise to the Father. At this sacred liturgy, we join all the angels and saints in their continuous act of worship to the Father, with the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The New Passover – The Mass is the Passover, fulfilled and renewed. The Paschal lamb has been replaced by Jesus, who is the Lamb of God; for, by the Blood He shed, we pass-over from death to life.

Food for the Journey – The Eucharist is the food, or sustenance, of Christian life. Every time we receive the Holy Eucharist, we come into the deepest communion with Christ. This is why the Holy Eucharist is called Holy Communion.

A Great Mystery – The Eucharist remains a great mystery. Its full significance and presence are just too much for our human minds to grasp. The mysterious union of Father and Son, in the Holy Spirit, is re-presented in us. We become what we have received – bone of His bone; flesh of His flesh; humility of His humility; holiness of His holiness.

A Foretaste of Heaven – The EUCCHARIST is one of the things that St. Paul refers to, when he says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the mind of man, the glories God has prepared for those who love Him; these things have been revealed to us” (1 Cor 2:9) The Eucharist is a foretaste of Heaven because, each time we receive the Eucharist, we are transcending the human.

to participate in the divine. We pierce the heavenliness, and enter into the very manifest presence of God. We are surrounded by the celestial choir of angels and saints singing, *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of hosts*. The Eucharist is also a pledge of eternal glory because Christ promised this when He said, “He who eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood, I will raise him up on the last day” (Jn 6:54).

A Pivotal Chapter – John 6 – The magnificent 6th Chapter of John’s gospel is the key text for understanding the Eucharist. It begins by saying that the Jewish feast of the Passover is near (v 4). It is the Eucharist that was promised. The first thing that Jesus does is to miraculously feed the 5,000, thereby showing His miraculous power over bread that can be eaten as sustenance. The next day, the crowds followed Him to Capernaum. There, in the synagogue, He promises them living bread come down from Heaven, not like the manna their forefathers ate in the desert. “Whoever eats this bread will live forever.” “Lord, give us, always, this bread,” is their response.

My Own Flesh For the Life of the World – Then Jesus startles them by saying, “The bread that I will give is My own Flesh for the life of the world.” Their response is one of unbelief, “How can this man give us His own flesh to eat?” Jesus’ answer is most powerful. He says, “With all of the earnestness I possess, I tell you this, unless you eat of the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For My Flesh is real food and My Blood is real drink. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me. This is the bread come down from Heaven” (Jn 6:53-59)

Plain and Clear Words – These words are so clear, so simple, so direct and so plain. Jesus, in His Eucharistic promise, is declaring that He will make a way for us to receive His Body and Blood, so we may live in Him as He lives in the Father. We become what we have received. Amen!