



Catechetical Series:

What Catholics Believe & Why

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Behold The Truth

Discovering the What & Why of the Catholic Faith
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What We Believe About the Eucharist

- ❖ We believe the Holy Eucharist is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the *appearances* of bread and wine.
- ❖ At the time of the *consecration* at Mass, the *substance* of the bread and wine are changed into Christ's Body and Blood.



The Imitation of Christ

- ❖ The priest uses the same words that Jesus used at the Last Supper, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19
- ❖ And the same with the wine ... “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”
Luke 22:20



The New Passover

- ❖ The Last Supper was a Passover meal, the sacred meal commemorating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt.
- ❖ At the time the Israelites were asked to slaughter a male lamb without blemish, and paint their doorways with its blood.
- ❖ The homes bearing the blood of the lamb would be “passed over” by the angel of death.



The New Passover

- ❖ They were also asked to roast and eat the flesh of the lamb.
- ❖ This was a symbolic way for them to become one with that saving sacrifice, taking the lamb's spotlessness upon themselves.



The New Passover

- ❖ We eat the flesh of the true Passover Lamb at Mass.
- ❖ This is no longer merely a symbolic eating, but a *sacramental* eating —a *Holy Communion*— by which we are truly united, body and spirit, with Our Savior Jesus Christ!



The Bread of Life

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.” John 6:53-57



A Participation In the Body and Blood of Christ

- ❖ Writing of the Holy Eucharist, Saint Paul said, “The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ... Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.” 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:27-28



The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano

- ❖ This miracle occurred in the 8th century, in Lanciano, Italy.
- ❖ At the consecration, the bread turned visibly into Flesh and the wine turned visibly into Blood.
- ❖ Scientific tests in 1971 revealed the Host is human heart tissue and the Blood is human blood type AB, the same blood type identified on the Holy Shroud of Turin.
- ❖ Inexplicably, the elements have remained intact for thirteen centuries.



The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires

- ❖ This miracle occurred in 1996, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, while Pope Francis was Bishop there.
- ❖ A consecrated Host was dropped on the floor, and so placed in a glass of water to dissolve.
- ❖ In a few days, the priest noticed the Host had not dissolved and that It was bleeding.



The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires

- ❖ A small sample was sent to a lab in the U.S., the same that had examined the Lanciano Host.
- ❖ The researchers were not told they were looking at a piece of a Communion Host.
- ❖ It was discovered that this Host was from the myocardium of a human heart (a cross-section of the heart).



The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires

- ❖ A forensic doctor, skilled in determining how a person died from inspecting the heart, said the sample had come from a man who had been badly beaten and tortured to death.
- ❖ The doctor was an atheist.
- ❖ When he learned he was looking at a piece of a Communion Host, he converted to the Catholic faith.



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