

June 3, 2024

These are notes from my Sunday Homily on Corpus Christi, as we celebrate “Eucharistic Revival,” to emphasize the gift of our Lord (His “Real Presence”) in the Eucharist.

We sometimes hear of Catholics leaving the Church. I truly believe that a Catholic would never leave the Church if they understood “WHO and What” the Eucharist is and becomes.

-History is violent and messy / Something is broken in us / We need Atonement for sin, so let us start with the readings.

-Exodus 24:3-8:[1] My theme from Exodus and Moses today is how God, through Moses sets up “the offering of a Sacrifice” for the forgiveness of our sins / From Moses to Jesus, who replaces the Old Testament “animal sacrifice”, with Himself on the Cross) / Jesus offers Himself to His Father as the perfect Sacrifice.

-By Sacrifice we are forgiven, freed, atoned, reconciled back to the Father. Jesus is the Passover Lamb / Thus, no more need for animal sacrifice / Jesus offers Himself “once for all” on the Cross, for the forgiveness of our sins. And we enter into this Sacrifice at each and every Mass.

Mark 14:12-16, 22-36:[2] What is Jesus doing in the Upper Room with His Apostles? THINK HOLY THURSDAY (Institution of Priesthood, and the Holy Eucharist).

-Hebrews 9:11-15:[3] Jesus is the High Priest / Offers us Sacrifice / His own Body and Blood / Jesus offers both the bread and the chalice to His future priests, so they can now offer this future Sacrifice and Memorial to His future Church / Jesus offers the first Mass to His Apostles and Disciples in the Upper Room.

-The Mass is a Sacrifice, which has to include:

1)The Offering (BREAD & WINE).

2)Prayer of Consecration. This IS MY “BODY,” This IS “MY BLOOD” / (Do we believe?)

-The Eucharist is the fullness and the Completion of the Sacrifice of the bread and the chalice.

-After the Sacrifice, the Consecrated Hosts are now exactly the same as the Consecrated Chalice / They BOTH become Jesus (Body, BLOOD, Soul, and Divinity).

So when we receive the Consecrated Host, we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Only in the Catholic and Orthodox Church(s) (With a valid Priesthood) do we have this perfect Sacrifice and Worship set up by Jesus in the Upper Room.

[4]

-And once the offering and Sacrifice are completed - Jesus says this to Sister Faustina as she receives Communion...(Divine Mercy Devotion):

“I am the SAME under each of the species, but not every soul receives Me with the same living faith as you do, My daughter, and therefore I cannot act in their souls as I do in yours.” (Diary, 1407).

-The Church in the past has sometimes (for protection and to teach) only offered one species (the Host) during Communion. Sometimes due to pandemics (sound familiar), or heresy where people don't believe in the Real Presence (sound familiar). Or to protect from confusion when some believe that we have to receive both the Chalice and Host to receive all of Jesus. No, to emphasize that the Eucharistic Host is the same as the Chalice, the Church has, for periods of time, (for the above reasons, including sacrilege during the distribution of the Chalice) offered Communion under the one species of the Holy Eucharist (The Bread of Angels and The Bread of Heaven).

-I would like to add that many of the Eucharistic Miracles (including a Recent miracle in India / and a miracle investigated by Pope Urban IV - 1216 AD) / Where the Eucharistic Bread (a Consecrated Host) was found bleeding in the ciborium. Thus, reminding us that the Eucharist is both the Body and Blood of Christ.

-In Reception and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist...Thank Jesus for this simplicity and availability of Bread and Wine, so we can experience the gifts of perfect sacrifice and worship (The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that Jesus gives to His soon to be Priests, and Church in the Upper Room), which we celebrate on Holy Thursday, and today at every Mass.

-This is why I could never leave the Church! What intimacy we have with our Lord in the Eucharist (The Bread that becomes His Body and Blood). May we also experience this intimacy at the IOP EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL.

-Jn 6: "This is the bread that comes down from heaven; anyone who eats this bread will never die."

Vivat Jesus,  
Father Vic Gournas