



PASTOR'S CORNER

The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

by Frank J. Sheed, *Theology for Beginners*

The Blessed Eucharist is *the* Sacrament. Baptism exists *for* it, all the others are enriched by it. The whole being is nourished by it. It is precisely food, which explains why it is the one sacrament meant to be received daily. Without it, one petition in the *Our Father*- "Give us this day our daily bread"-lacks the fullness of its meaning.

Early in his ministry, as St. John tells us (ch 6), Our Lord gave the first promise of it. He had just worked what is probably the most famous of his miracles, the feeding of the five thousand. The next day, in the synagogue at Capernaum on the shore of the sea of Galilee, Our Lord made a speech which should be read and reread. Here we quote a few phrases: "I am the Bread of Life"; "I am the Living Bread, which came down from heaven. If any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give, is my flesh for the life of the world"; "He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has everlasting life: and I will raise him up in the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed: and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, abides in me, and I in him"; "He that eats me shall live by me."

He saw that many of his own disciples were horrified at what he was saying. He went on: "It is the spirit that quickens: the flesh profits nothing." We know what he meant: in saying they must eat his flesh, he did not mean dead flesh but his body with the life in it, with the living soul in it. In some way he himself, living, was to be the food of their soul's life. Needless to say, all this meant nothing whatever to those who heard it first. For many, it was the end of discipleship. They simply left him, probably thinking that for a man to talk of giving them his flesh to eat was mere insanity. When he asked the Apostles if they would go too, Peter gave him one of the most moving answers in all man's history: "Lord, to whom shall we go?" He had not the faintest idea of what it all meant; but he had a total belief in the Master he had chosen and simply hoped that someday it would be made plain.

There is no hint that Our Lord ever raised the matter again until the Last Supper. Then his meaning was most marvelously made plain. What he said and did

Mass Intentions Fourth Sunday of Easter May 6, 2017

Saturday—May 6th –

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – The Poor Souls in Purgatory
by Irene Vomero

7:00PM – Jerome J. Bednar
by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Kratzer

Sunday – May 7th –

8:30AM – Peg and Steve Skvoretz (WA)
by Dave and Patti Skvoretz

10:30AM – Our C.C.D. Students
by Our C.C.D. Catechists

Monday – May 8th – St Peter of Tarantaise

8:00AM – Beryl M. Faryna
by Jean Marhefka and Family

Tuesday – May 9th – St Pachomius

8:00AM – Charles H. Albert (B)
by Family

Miraculous Medal Novena after Mass

Wednesday – May 10th – St Damien de Veuster

6:00PM – Marie Mooney
by McCloskey Family

Thursday – May 11th – St Francis of Girolamo

8:00AM – John "Jack" McCarty
by Kathleen and Peggy

Friday – May 12th – Ss Nereus and Achilleus

8:00AM – Margaret S. McCarty
by Cathy Holena

Saturday—May 13th – Our Lady of Fatima

8:00AM – All St. John Fisher Parishioners

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sat Vigil: 4:00PM – All Mother's Day Intentions
7:00PM – All Mother's Day Intentions

Sunday – May 14th –

8:30AM – All Mother's Day Intentions
10:30AM – All Mother's Day Intentions



Pray the Rosary each Sunday
8:15AM and 10:15AM

then is told us by Matthew, Mark, and Luke; and St. Paul tells it to the Corinthians (1 Cor 10 and 11). St. John, who gives the longest account of the Last Supper, does not mention the institution of the Blessed Eucharist; his Gospel was written perhaps thirty years after the others, to be read in a church which had been receiving Our Lord's body and blood for some sixty years. What he had provided is the account we have just been considering of Our Lord's first promise.

Here is St. Matthew's account of the establishment: "Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke: and gave to his disciples, and said, Take ye and eat: This is my body. And taking the chalice he gave thanks: and gave to them, saying: Drink ye all of this. For this is my blood of the New Testament, which shall be shed for many unto remission of sins."

Since they deal with the food of our life, we must examine these words closely. What we are about to say of "This is my body" will do for "This is my blood" too. The word *is* need not detain us. There are those, bent upon escaping the plain meaning of the words used, who say that the phrase really means "This represents my body." It sounds very close to desperation! No competent speaker would ever talk like that, least of all Our Lord, least of all *then*. The word *this*, deserves a closer look. Had he said, "Here is my body," he might have meant that, in some mysterious way, his body was there as well as, along with, the bread which seems so plainly to be there. But he said, "*This* is my body"-this which I am holding, this which looks like bread but is not, this which was bread before I blessed it, this is now my body. Similarly this, which was wine, which still looks like wine, is not wine. It is now my blood.

Every life is nourished by its own kind-the body by material food, the intellect by mental food. But the life we are now concerned with is Christ living in us; the only possible food for it is Christ. So much is this so that in our own day you will scarcely find grace held to be Christ's life in us unless the Eucharist is held to be Christ himself.

What Our Lord was giving us was a union with Himself closer than the Apostles had in the three years of their companionship, than Mary Magdalen had when she clung to him after his Resurrection.

Two of St. Paul's phrases, from 1 Corinthians 11 and 10, are specially worth noting:

"Whosoever shall eat this bread, or drink the chalice of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and of the blood of the Lord"; and "We, being many, are one bread, one body, all that partake of one bread"- a reminder that the Eucharist is not only for each man's soul but for the unity of the Mystical Body.

I can see why a Christian might be unable to bring himself to believe it, finding it beyond his power to accept the idea that a man can give us his flesh to eat. But why should anyone to escape the plain meaning of the words?

For the Catholic nothing could be simpler. Whether he understands or not, he feels safe with Peter in the assurance that he who said he would give us his body to eat had the words of eternal life. Return again to what he said. The bread is not changed into the whole Christ, but into his body; the wine is not changed into the whole Christ, but into his blood. But Christ lives, death has no more dominion over him. The bread becomes his body, but where his body is, there he is; the wine becomes his blood but is not thereby separated from his body, for that would mean death; where his blood is, he is. Where either body or blood is, there is Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity. That is the doctrine of the Real Presence.

Food for thought – and eternal life!
Fr. Eric.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION



Plate Collection **\$3,656.00**

The **Second Collection** this weekend, **May 6th and 7th**, will be the **Mother's Day Collection**.

The **Second Collection** next weekend, **May 13th and 14th**, will be the **National Shrine Collection**.



NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

	Servers	Lectors	E.Ministers
4:00PM	A.Muschko M.Druckenmiller	J.McAllister	Deacon Jack
7:00PM	J.Shaul M.Hosni	J.Englert	Deacon Jack
8:30AM	D.Popovic M.Popovic	J.Strohl	J.Druckenmiller
10:30AM	C.Ritter M.Ritter	K.McCloskey	L.Bolmer

ST DAMIEN DE VEUSTER



The son of Belgian farmers, Damien de Veuster joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and, in 1873, asked to serve permanently among the lepers at Moloka'i, Hawaii, nicknamed, "the devil's island." Damien worked tirelessly to

create humane living conditions for the lepers. He diligently tended the spiritual needs of his sickly flock. "If I cannot cure them as [Christ] did, at least I can comfort them, and through the holy ministry that he in his kindness has given me, I hope that many of them, cured from leprosy of the soul, will go before his tribunal able to enter the society of the blessed." Damien contracted leprosy and died in 1889 on Moloka'i.

Magnificat May, 2017

CHICKEN PAPRIKAS DINNER

Thank you all who participated in and made our Chicken Paprikas dinner a success. We have received a profit of **\$1,381.00**.

RAFFLE WINNERS!

Congratulations to our raffle winners:

- 1st: # 9400 – **Nancy J. Sell** - \$250.00
- 2nd: # 7768 – **John D. Labenberg** - \$50.00
- 3rd: # 7271 – **Margaret Elizabeth Hogan** - \$25.00
- 4th: # 7598 – **Linda J. Kish** - \$25.00
- 5th: # 9321 – **Janet P. Schafer** - \$25.00
- 6th: # 7247 – **Paul A. Hludzik** - \$100.00
- 7th: # 9395 – **Nancy J. Sell** - \$25.00
- 8th: # 7380 – **Rita M. Huttie** - \$25.00
- 9th: #10632– **Fred Charles Hutterer, Jr.** - \$50.00
- 10th: # 9897 – **Michael E. Voice** - \$100.00

St. John Fisher received **\$2,719.00**, to aid in our oncoming renovation projects. Thank you to all who participated!

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Blessed Mother appeared for the first time to three Portuguese shepherd children on **May 13, 1917**. Europe was in the grips of the First World War, which would claim an astounding 37 million lives. Only eight days before the apparition, Pope Benedict XV had begged the Blessed Mother to intercede for the war's end. During her appearances, Mary predicted the devastation of World War II and the grave threat posed by Communist Russia. Her message to the children and the world: reform your lives and do penance for your sins. Pray the rosary every day.

~ Magnificat May, 2017



Please remember in your prayers **Margaret "Peggy" Worman and Jeannette Susan Koncz**, who passed away and were buried this past week. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

At all Masses for Mother's Day next weekend, **May 13th and 14th**, the **Pennsylvanians for Human Life** will be selling live flowers for their annual fundraiser. **Flowers will be on sale for \$2.00 for Carnations and \$3.00 for Roses.** Please support their only fundraiser with a lovely gift for your Mom.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers were placed on the altar last weekend in loving memory of **Bernard C. Cunningham from Keira Rose Gair**, and for **Charles and Marge McCarty, Gail Light and Thomas Titano, Sr. from Shannon Light and Sophia Titano**, for their First Holy Communion.

Flowers were also placed on the altar last weekend in celebration of the **50th Wedding Anniversary of Fran and Larry Williams**.