



Of Seeds and Flowers



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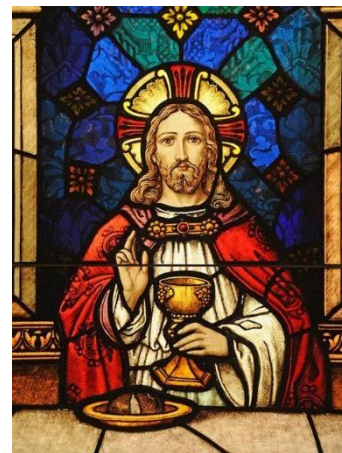
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PANIS ANGELICUS -THE BREAD OF ANGELS

“Panis angelicus” are the first words of the classic Eucharistic hymn written in the 13th Century by St. Thomas Aquinas. May is the month of First Communions, so for your BEAUTIFUL, EUCHARISTIC HEART, some pertinent reflections.

Around the year 155, the pagan Emperor, Antoninus Pius (138-161), asked St. Justin Martyr to explain what Christian did on Sunday. IMAGINE, 1865 years ago the following basic lines of our present EVERY Sunday Eucharist can be traced back to the explanation St. Justin Martyr wrote to the Emperor Antonius Pius. He wrote: “No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.



The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that He took bread, gave thanks and said: Do this in memory of me. This is my body. In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: This is my blood. The Lord gave this command to them alone. **Ever since then** we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

“On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or the country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time presents. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things.

Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves...and for others, wherever they be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation. When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss.

Then someone brings bread, a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren. He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek *eucharistian*) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts. When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation saying “Amen.”

When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the “eucharisted” bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent.’ We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on the same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

Next Sunday, YOU are heir, and a part of this venerable and ancient THANKSGIVING. What a GIFT!!! Be impressed with the PRIVILEGE. -for YOU!!! Same celebration, EVERY SUNDAY, for 1865 years, and in fact 2000 years, right back to the Last Supper. "Boring", HOW??

Mary to the Medjugorje visionaries: "If you ever find yourselves having to choose between attending Mass or seeing me in an apparition, choose the Mass." At another apparition Mary said: "I was the first tabernacle. The holy Body grew within me, first."

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE IN BUENOS AIRES

In 1996, when Pope Francis was auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, a remarkable Eucharistic miracle happened. The results are truly astounding. At 7pm on August 18, 1996, Father Alejandro Pezet was celebrating Mass in a church located in the center of the city. As he finished distributing Holy Communion, a woman came up to him and said that she found a host that someone had thrown away at the back of the church. Father Alejandro went to the place in the church and picked up the very soiled host. The host was so soiled that he couldn't consume it so he placed it in a small container of water which he put in the tabernacle.



On Monday, August 26th upon opening the tabernacle, to his great surprise he saw that the host had become a bloody substance. He informed Bishop Bergoglio, who gave instructions that the host was to be professionally photographed. The photos, which were taken on September 6th show clearly that the host, which had become a fragment of bloody flesh, had greatly increased in size. The host remained in the tabernacle for several years. The whole affair was never publicized. Since the host showed no visible sign of decomposition, Bishop Bergoglio decided to have a scientific analysis done on the host.

On October 5, 1999, in the presence of representatives of Bishop Bergoglio, Dr. Castanon removed a sample of the bloody fragment and sent it to New York for analysis. Since he did not want to influence or corrupt the results of the tests, he did reveal the origin of the sample to the team of scientists doing the testing.

One of these scientists was the acclaimed cardiologist and forensic pathologist, Dr. Frederic Zugiba. He determined that the substance being analyzed was true flesh and real blood containing human DNA. He stated that, "The analyzed material is a fragment of the heart muscle found in the wall of the left ventricle close to the valves. This muscle is responsible for the contraction of the heart. It should be kept in mind that the left cardiac ventricle pumps blood to all parts of the body. The heart muscle is in an inflammatory condition and contains a large number of white blood cells. It is my contention, wrote Dr. Zugiba, that the heart was alive, since white blood cells require a living organism to sustain them, or they will die outside of a living organism. Thus, their presence indicates that the heart was alive when the sample was taken. What is more, these white blood cells had penetrated the tissue, which further indicates that the heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest."

Two Australians, journalist Mike Willesee and legal expert Ron Tesoriero, were witnesses to these tests. When they became aware of the origin of the sample that was tested, they were staggered by Dr. Zugiba's declaration. Mike Willesee asked Dr. Zugiba how long the white blood cells could have remained alive if they had come from human tissue that was preserved in water. Dr. Zugiba answered that the white blood cells would have ceased to exist after a few minutes. The journalist only then revealed to the doctor that the substance from which the sample had come had first been preserved in ordinary water for a month and, following that, had been preserved in a receptacle containing mineral water for three years and that it was only after this time that a sample had been taken for analysis. Dr. Zugiba was at a total loss to explain this fact. He declared that there was no way of explaining this fact scientifically.

Dr. Zugiba then asked him, "Please, can you explain something to me. If this sample was taken from a dead person, then how can it be that while I was examining it, the cells in the sample were in motion and pulsating? If this heart comes from someone who died in 1996, how can it still be alive?" Only then did Mike Wallace reveal to Dr. Zugiba that the analyzed sample came from a consecrated host (white, unleavened bread), which had mysteriously been transformed into bleeding human flesh. Stunned at hearing this, Dr. Zugiba answered, "How and why a consecrated

host (white, unleavened bread) can change its character and become human flesh and blood will remain an inexplicable mystery for science - a mystery completely beyond its competence."



EUCCHARIST: What an ingenious way to be remembered!! Not by leaving a library, museum, or hospital but by leaving **Oneself** behind as living food. -only the creativity and love of God!!! The Last Supper NOW! This is the reason Catholics celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday, indeed, every day. -or have hours of adoration before the blessed Sacrament, or just visit the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle. His REAL, NOT SYMBOLIC, presence in the Eucharist.

One of the common things most Catholics say who leave the church is, ***"I really miss going to communion each Sunday."***

Have you ever thought about what it must have been like for Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to go to communion? –to receive her own Son in the Eucharist. The son that she bore, whose diaper she changed, taught to handle a spoon, taught to talk and even TO PRAY, watched Him die. What a moment that must have been!! Can you imagine the anticipation and preparation? Can you imagine the humility and reverence in her heart?

Can you imagine the intimacy of those minutes right after the Body of her Son was placed on her tongue? -holding Him next to her heart? Can you imagine the silent conversation? –the joy! Can you imagine Mary's moments of Thanksgiving after Communion? MARY. What a model! What an example!!

How much time do you spend thanking God after your weekly Communion? How routine has it become? **Unthinking repetition** can kill the most glorious privilege and honor.

Receiving Communion each Sunday is one of the glories and riches of being a Roman Catholic. The Sacramental system is such a treasure. Hold on to it. Celebrate it with the honor it deserves. You are privileged and blessed. I remember a Protestant friend once saying to me, ***"If I believed what you Catholics believe about the Eucharist, I would come to the altar every day on my knees". "I am the living bread come down from heaven; anyone who eats this bread will live forever; the bread that I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world."***

The opposite of belief is often not denial but apathy. -taking the Diamond in your hand for granted. Think about this on your way to church. -or the night before. Ask the Lord to help you to prepare to come into His wonderful presence. How would you prepare or feel if you knew you were about to come into the presence of Pope Francis? - and who is he compared to your God?

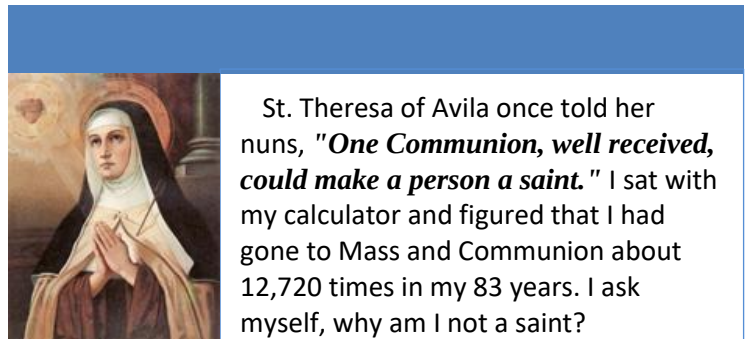
Remember the story in the Scriptures of the woman who suffered with a hemorrhage for many years? She found herself with Jesus and said to herself, ***"If I can but touch the hem of His garment I will be healed."*** She did, and Jesus felt power go out from Him, and she was cured. **Healed by just touching only the hem of His garment.** What do you think would have happened if she was able to go to communion and actually receive the Body and Blood of Jesus? -And YOU CAN!!

SPEAKING SOFTLY

Sister Briege McKenna C.S.C. is a nun from Ireland. Like Mother Theresa, Sister Briege prays for about three hours a day. God has given her the gift of being able to pray for people who are ill and often the person is healed.

On a trip to South America, she found herself high in the mountains of Peru. It was a Sunday. The local priest was able to get to the people to celebrate the Eucharist once every 5 weeks. The people began to come from all of the surrounding villages. They gathered on the only plateau available. As the people were gathering, she noticed a mother with her little boy whose body was badly burnt and scarred. She began to ask herself, "Should I go over and see if I can pray for the boy to be healed." She hesitated and in a short while the priest began to celebrate the Eucharist.

The mother placed the boy under the edge of the altar, the only place where there was shade. As Sister Briege looked at the boy during the Mass, her hesitation to pray before Mass began kept gnawing at her.



St. Theresa of Avila once told her nuns, ***"One Communion, well received, could make a person a saint."*** I sat with my calculator and figured that I had gone to Mass and Communion about 12,720 times in my 83 years. I ask myself, why am I not a saint?

The Eucharist ended and Sister Brieger noticed a little boy running around playing with the other boys and asked his mother, "Isn't that the badly burned boy who was lying under the altar during Mass." The mother quickly responded, "Yes." And sister replied, "And now, he is completely healed!!" The mother said, "Don't you believe that Jesus was just here in the Eucharist?" "Why, if Jesus was just here are you surprised that He healed my son?" And the mother moved on to chat with her friends. WOW! Such simple faith but didn't Jesus say, "If you but have faith the size of a mustard seed you can move mountains." -AND HOW IS YOUR SUNDAY MORNING EUCHARIST GOING?

Think about this on your way to celebrate the Eucharist. -or on Saturday evening. The incredible privilege! Ask the Lord to help you to prepare to come into His wonderful presence. How would you prepare and feel if you knew you were about to come into the presence of Pope Francis? - and who is he compared to your God? How many times have you celebrated the Eucharist and received Communion? THIS SUNDAY IS THE DAY!!



Mary's Field is now on YouTube. Everyday a short video will be uploaded to help nourish your heart and strengthen your spirit during these difficult times. Type "YouTube Mary's Field" into the Bing.com search engine or "Mary's Field" into the Youtube.com search to find our channel.



"Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created." - Esther

RESPONSIBILITY: *In the end, no single drop of water feels it is responsible for the flood.*

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