

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

An Invitation to Look Beyond the Veil of Bread and Wine

NCOD Pastoral Week 2020

Today we invite you to take a deeper look into the mystery of the Eucharist and to explore the miracles present to us when we look beyond the veil of bread and wine. We will look at three ways to understand Eucharistic Miracles.

1. The Eucharist itself is a Miracle.
2. Through Miracles, God reminds us that the bread and wine are truly the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ.
3. The Eucharist grants Miracles in our lives.

The Eucharist itself is a Miracle.

The word Eucharist means “Thanksgiving.” The Eucharist infuses Christ’s sacrificial love into the Church, uniting Christian’s love with Christ’s love, the Church’s sacrifice with his own. The Eucharist is a sacrament and a sacrifice. In the Holy Eucharist, under the appearance of bread and wine, the Lord Christ is contained, offered and received. It is a miracle when Christ unites with the priest; the priest says the words at the consecration; and the bread and wine change into the **Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Risen Christ.**

The Eucharist is connected to the Old Testament, the Last Supper, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites sacrificed lambs:

1. to give back to God what is his
2. as an act of thanks
3. to seal a covenant with God and Man
4. as an act of sorrow for their sins

At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist. According to the gospel of Matthew: While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.” Jesus is the Lamb of God. He sacrifices himself on the cross.

During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, at the moment of consecration, the priest, in the person of Christ, changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. When we are at Mass, Christ is there and mysteriously we are for that moment standing at the Eternal Supper of the Lamb.

Through Miracles, God Reminds Us That the Bread and Wine are Truly the Body and Blood of Christ

The Last Supper happened 2000 years ago. Why does God show us his presence in the Eucharist using miracles now?

A. To remind us of his presence in the sacred Host.

Eucharistic Miracles have happened around the world.

Lanciano, Italy:

One of the most famous miracles happened in Lanciano, Italy in the year 750AD. At the Church of St. Francis, a priest doubted whether the Body of Our Lord was truly present in the consecrated Host. He celebrated Mass and when he said the words of consecration, he saw the host turn into Flesh and the wine turn into Blood. In 1970, a thorough examination of the Flesh and Blood was performed. The results showed that the Flesh is human muscular tissue of the heart. Arteries and veins can be easily identified as well as a double, slender branch of the vagus nerve. The Blood is human with the blood type AB. Proteins in the blood are identical in percentage to fresh human blood. No salt infusions or embalming chemicals were found. The Flesh and Blood have not deteriorated for 1200 years.

Ferrara, Italy:

A Eucharistic miracle took place in Ferrara at the Basilica of Saint Mary on Easter Sunday, March 28, 1171AD. At the moment of consecration, the priest broke the Host, and he saw the Blood gushed from the Host, staining the ceiling of the crypt above the altar.

Bolsena, Italy:

In 1263, a priest, who found it difficult to accept that Christ was really present in the Eucharist, was celebrating Mass in the Basilica of Bolsena. When the moment of consecration arrived, blood started to seep from the consecrated Host and trickle over his hands and onto the altar. The priest stopped Mass and took the altar cloth and the Host to the Pope. The Pope placed the relics in the Cathedral. The Host and the altar cloth with the Blood can still be seen where they are enshrined in the Cathedral of Orvieto.

Sienna, Italy:

In 1730, 361 consecrated Hosts were stolen from San Francesco Church in Sienna, Italy. Three days later, 361 hosts were found in the dust of an alms box in Santa Maria church in Provengo. The Hosts remained fresh. In 1789, as an experiment, the Archbishop ordered several unconsecrated hosts to be placed in a sealed box and kept locked up. Ten years later, these were examined and found to be deteriorated and a dark yellow color. The consecrated Hosts remained fresh.

Buenos Aires, Argentina:

In August, 1996, a person received communion in his hands and the Host fell onto the floor. He didn't pick it up. Another person noticed the Host on the floor, picked it up and gave it to the priest. The priest put the Host in a vessel full of water which he placed in the tabernacle so that the Host would dissolve. Ten days later, the vessel was opened and showed several reddish stains that became larger each day. The Host has been analyzed by scientists. The results showed that the sample of the consecrated Host is the muscle of the heart, precisely the left ventricle, similar to the host in Lanciano, Italy. The heart muscle had thrombi which indicated that the person who died had trouble breathing and getting oxygen before he died. The sample contained white blood cells which normally disintegrate after 15 minutes. The Host also contained DNA.

Textile, Mexico:

On October 21, 2006, two priests were distributing communion and a nun was helping. The nun put a Host in her pix to take to a sick parishioner. Part of the Host in the pix started to change to a reddish substance. The nun looked at the priest with tears in her eyes. The priest informed the Bishop and he contacted the scientist who analyzed the host in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Results showed that the substance is human blood and human DNA. The blood type is AB. The miracle happened in 2006 and there was fresh blood found in tests in 2010. Results also found red and white blood and muscle fiber from the heart. Human DNA

was found, but the whole DNA genetic profile could not be found. Theologians say that Jesus did not have a human father. His father was the Holy Spirit

Sokolka, Poland:

On October 12, 2008, A priest was saying Mass. He unknowingly dropped a Host on the ground. The priest picked up the Host and put it in a small silver bowl which contained water. After Mass, a nun poured the Host and water into a vessel and put them a safe. One week later, the Host was removed from the safe and blood was seen on it. Ten days later , the Host was put in the tabernacle. The next day, the Host was placed on a corporal (cloth) inside the tabernacle. Two and a half months later, a piece of the Host was tested. Results show that the sample was human heart tissue that was still alive. Scientists said that the tissue could not have been placed on the Host because the fragments that made up the Host were tightly interconnected to the fibers of there human tissue and penetrate each other as if the fragment of bread suddenly transformed itself into body.

Saints experienced miracles.

St. Tarcisius: St. Tarcisius was carrying the Blessed Sacrament. Some pagans beat him to death. The Eucharist mysteriously vanished.

St. Faustina: Once when receiving the Eucharist, St. Faustina heard the words, “You are our dwelling place.” At that moment she felt her soul in the presence of the Holy Trinity.

St. Anthony of Padua: St. Anthony elevated the Eucharist and said to a mule, “In the name of our Lord God, I command you to come and adore your Creator.” The mule put his forelegs down in a posture of adoration.”

St. Padre Pio: At each Mass, Padre Pio saw the heavens open, the splendor of God and the glory of the angels and saints.

Fatima: In 1916, in the year before Our Lady’s appearance at Fatima, The Angel of Peace appeared three times to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. The last time, he brought the Holy Eucharist. The Angel held a Host in one hand and a beautiful Chalice in the other. The Chalice and Host were suspended in the air with blood dripping from the Host into the Chalice.

B. To give us strength

Eucharist Miracles give us Spiritual Strength when we have difficult times in our lives. We are strongest when we receive the Eucharist.

C. Because we doubt

Like Saint Thomas, we doubt what we can’t see. Eucharistic Miracles help us to see and continue believing in the Real Presence of Christ in the consecrated Host. We can be like the woman in Matthew 9:20. Jesus told her, “Your faith has healed you.” With faith, we can see with our soul.

D. We receive the Eucharist Unworthily

Eucharistic miracles show us that Jesus is truly present in church with us. Our clothing and behavior should show respect while we are in church. Because Jesus is in the tabernacle, we should enter church reverently and genuflect before the tabernacle. Genuflecting shows Jesus that we are humble, that we adore him and that we love him. If we have committed a mortal sin, we must go to confession before receiving the Eucharist. We should fast for one hour before receiving communion, ask for God's healing and show respect as we take the Host.

The Eucharist Grants Miracles in our Lives

Union with Christ

The very sign of the sacrament symbolizes our total oneness in Christ: Many grains of wheat have been mixed together to make the one bread which becomes the Body of Christ. Many grapes have been crushed together in the press to make the contents of the one chalice which becomes the Blood of Christ.

We are many in One—and that One is Christ

Increases Sanctifying Grace

What food produces in our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life. The Eucharist renews the life of grace received in Baptism.

God Protects Us and Gives Us Strength

Holy Communion separates us from sin. When Christ is with us, evil cannot remain. Frequent receiving of holy communion reorients us to Christ and away from sin. When life is difficult, the Eucharist gives us inner strength. People are sometimes scared when they are near death. Through the Eucharist, God gives us grace for a happy death.

Our Communion with other Christians is Strengthened.

The Eucharist is a sacrament of love. When we receive the Eucharist we must see Christ in the poorest of his people. We must love Christ through the Eucharist and extend that love to our fellow humans

Bibliography

Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association. *The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. The Real Presence*, <http://therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl_mir.htm>

Flynn, Vinney. *7 Secrets of the Eucharist*. Stockbridge, MA: Mercy Song, Inc. 1986

Cruz, Joan Carroll. *Eucharistic Miracles*. Rockford, IL: Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 1987

Brown, Michael. *Secrets of the Eucharist*. Goleta, CA: Queenship Publishing Company, 1996

Hahn, Scott. *The Lamb's Supper*. New York, NY: Random House, 1999

Pitre, Brant. *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. New York, NY: Random House, 2016

Interdicasterial Commission. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 1994