



Bringing Home the Word

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (C)

June 19, 2022

The Miracle of the Eucharist

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

One of the most interesting representations of the Last Supper is a depiction from the Master of Fossa. This scene typically is illustrated much like da Vinci's *The Last Supper*—all the apostles sitting on one side of the table. In this rare interpretation, Jesus directly distributes the host to his apostles, reminding us of how we receive Communion today.

This rendering could be a nod to the feast of Corpus Christi, solemnly approved some thirty years earlier by Pope Clement V in 1311 in response to a eucharistic miracle in an Umbrian

town. A German priest, struggling with his belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, was celebrating Mass in Orvieto. After the consecration, the host turned to flesh and began to bleed. He wrapped up the Eucharist and brought it to the bishop in a nearby town. After confirming its authenticity, a miracle was declared.

Hundreds of documented eucharistic miracles help confirm our faith in the Eucharist. Should you question the belief that Christ's Body and Blood are really present in the Eucharist, perhaps reading about these miracles would help.

In this image, the Master of Fossa's scene of the Last Supper is placed directly beneath the painting of the crucifixion, in this way reminding us that the Mass and Eucharist make present to us today the power of Jesus' death. By receiving Communion, we unite ourselves with Christ and the events of the passion, death, and resurrection. For this reason, many Catholics silently repeat before receiving him, "My Lord and my God." +

***By receiving Communion,
we unite ourselves
with Christ and the events
of the passion, death,
and resurrection.***

A Word from Pope Francis

Humans all over the world today need nourishment. And this nourishment is not just to satisfy physical hunger. There are other hungers—for love, ...for life, for affection, ...for forgiveness, for mercy. This hunger can be satiated only by the bread that comes from above.

National Eucharistic Congress of India,
November 12, 2015



Sunday Readings

Genesis 14:18–20

Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine. He was a priest of God Most High.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Luke 9:11b–17

[Jesus] said to them, "Give them some food yourselves." They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- When I receive the Eucharist am I mindful of the privilege of this great gift?
- Does Communion give me the strength to serve others?

Simple Yet Profound

By Fr. Donald Willard, CSsR

We're all aware of the need to nourish our bodies. The right nourishment comes from eating the right foods in the right quantities at the right times. For example, a person can eat an entire chocolate cake right before he goes to bed. It may satisfy his hunger, but it will do little to nourish his body. A person who continues this practice for several weeks may start having difficulties with his physical health.

The same principle applies to spiritual nourishment. The key to proper spiritual nourishment is that we receive the right nourishment in the right quantities at the right time. For example, the living Word of God as found in Scripture offers nourishment, but if I try to read the entire Bible in one afternoon I probably won't retain much information or gain proper understanding. I may actually damage my spiritual well-being because of personal biases, misunderstanding, and poor interpretation.

So, what is the best balance of spiritual nourishment for the most effective and healthy spiritual life? I can think of no better example than the one we experience at Mass. In this celebration we find two tables, the table of the Word and the table of the Eucharist. The living Word of God is proclaimed, and we receive instruction in its meaning. We don't need a lot of Scripture in one setting; we need just enough to lead us to a spiritual insight for the day. The homily inspires and



teaches us how the Word of God can transform our lives. Then we offer prayers and petitions, putting that Word into practice.

As we move to the table of the Eucharist, we bring forth gifts that symbolize our hopes, dreams, fears, thanksgivings, and memories. We give our lives to God, who through the power of the Holy Spirit transforms our gifts into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ. A divine exchange has taken place.

Our life is given to God, and God gives us back the life of his son, Jesus Christ. We find our daily bread—spiritual nourishment in him. We are filled with divine life that transforms us into the fullness of who God wants us to

be. Here we find the source of strength to witness in faith, hope, and charity and to nourish the world with the love of God.

Each time we approach the eucharistic celebration, we are renewed, strengthened, enlightened, empowered, and transformed. It is spiritual nourishment from true spiritual food. The meal is simple and profound, but then again, that is how God always speaks to our hearts. +

So, what is the best balance of spiritual nourishment for the most effective and healthy spiritual life? I can think of no better example than the one we experience at Mass.

PRAYER

One Lord of all, we give thanks and praise for the gift of yourself in the meal of the Eucharist. Though many, we are made one in your life. You are our one bread, our one body, our one Lord of all in this one world. Thank you. Amen.

—From *Celebrating the Gospels: A Guide for Parents and Teachers*, by Gaynell Cronin

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 20–25

Monday, Weekday:
2 Kgs 17:5–8, 13–15a, 18 / Mt 7:1–5

Tuesday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:
2 Kgs 19:9b–11, 14–21, 31–35a, 36 / Mt 7:6, 12–14

Wednesday, Weekday:
2 Kgs 22:8–13; 23:1–3 / Mt 7:15–20

Thursday, Nativity of St. John the Baptist:
Is 49:1–6 / Acts 13:22–26 / Lk 1:57–66, 80

Friday, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:
Ez 34:11–16 / Rom 5:5b–11 / Lk 15:3–7

Saturday, Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Lam 2:2, 10–14, 18–19 / Lk 2:41–51

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

June 19, 2022

© 2022 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2022 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.