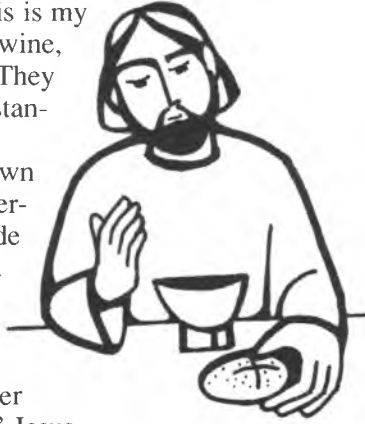


J.M.J.

The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist

Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. This is not speaking figuratively, but literally. Christ, the Divine Person, God and man, is present in the Blessed Sacrament, in Holy Communion, in the Eucharist. The ordained priest, standing at the altar during Mass, speaks in the person of Christ, "This is my Body", "This is the cup of my Blood...". The bread and the wine, by virtue of the power of God, are changed in substance. They continue to look and taste like bread and wine, but transubstantiation takes place. Jesus Christ is substantially present.

How can this be? God is present in many ways at his own choosing. At a point of time, some 2000 years ago, God intervened in our world. "And the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us..." (John 1:14) Mary conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father sent his Son, out of love, to redeem all people. And when Jesus was about to leave this world, on the night before he was crucified, at the Last Supper, he made himself present under the forms of bread and wine. "Do this in memory of me" Jesus



said, ordaining and empowering, his apostles, his priests.

Jesus continues to offer himself at altars around the world. Parishioners approach the altar to receive Christ in Holy Communion. When Mass is over, the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the tabernacle. Christ continues to be present in church. Parishioners genuflect in reverence. They pray to Christ when they stop by the church for a visit.

There is no greater worship or praise to God than Christ offering himself at Mass. Parishioners unite with Christ in mind and heart. They offer themselves in union with Christ, keeping holy the Lord's Day. Jesus Christ is proclaimed in Catholic churches throughout the world. Christ is proclaimed by parishioners of faith.

Jesus declared, "Behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world." (Matthew 28:20) Eucharist means thanksgiving. We thank Christ for his loving presence. St. Paul writes, "The cup of blessings that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?" The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16)

May we assist you in your journey of faith?

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