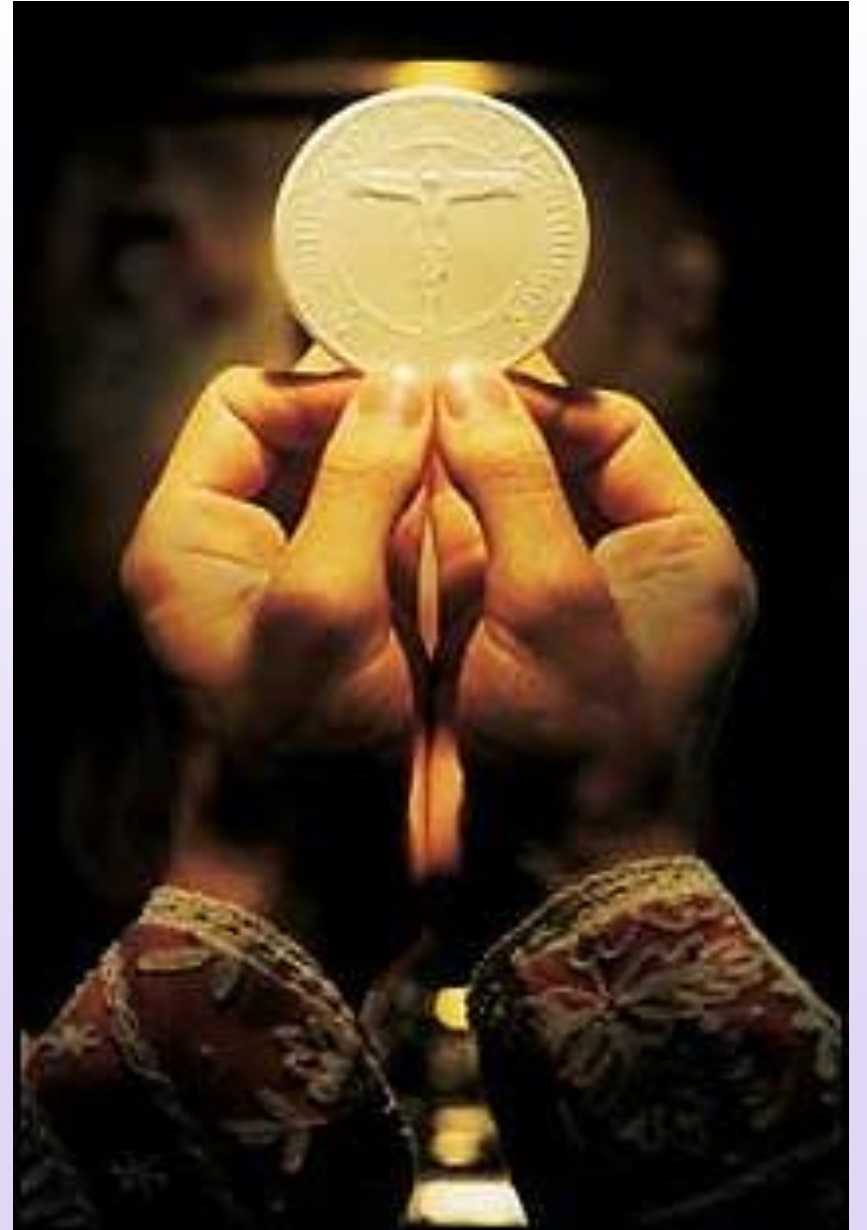


Why the Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is *real...*

Please visit TheJesusPeace.com to learn more!





Pew Research Center

According to a **2019 Pew Report**, **69%** of Catholics in the United States do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ. They believe the “bread” and “wine” are merely *symbols* of the Body and Blood of Christ...⁽¹⁾

Gregory A. Smith, Pew Research, August 2019

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>



Based on Sacred Scripture, the Catholic Church has always professed that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is *truly* present in the Holy Eucharist...

- ❖ **Paragraph 1374** of the Catechism of the Catholic Church says:
- ❖ “In the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist “the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained. This presence is called “*real...*”

(Council of Trent [1551]; DS 1651. See also, Paul VI, MF 39, and CCC 1413)



The first evidence of the *Real Presence* of Christ in the Holy Eucharist begins with listening *very closely* to what Jesus says in **Chapter 6 of St. John's record of the Gospel...**

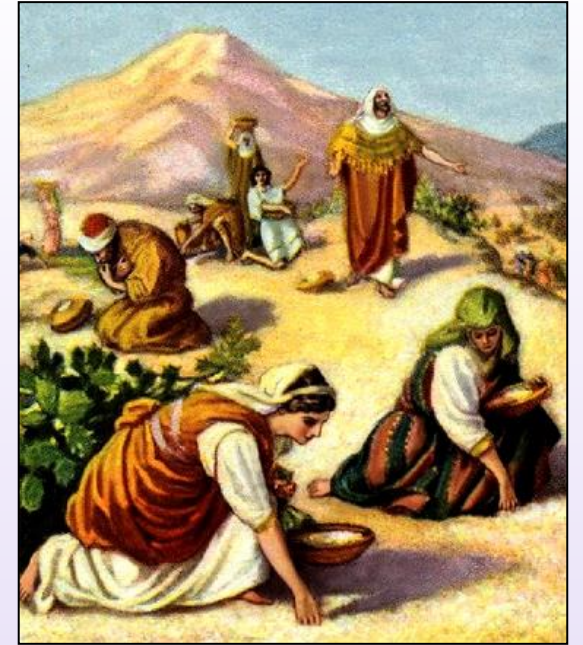
- ❖ **John 6** begins with the miracle of Jesus feeding a multitude of people with five loaves of bread and two fish
- ❖ The “Feeding of the 5000” is a foreshadowing of Jesus feeding the whole world one day with Holy Communion
- ❖ The next day, many are seeking Jesus for another free meal. This is why he says to them:



“26 ...**Truly, truly**, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 **Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life**, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal...” (John 6:26-27)



“28 ...“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29 Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you **believe in him** whom he has sent.” 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see, and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, *‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’*” 32 Jesus then said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the **true bread** from heaven. 33 For the **bread of God** is that which comes down from heaven, and **gives life** to the world.” (John 6:28-33)



34 They said to him, “Lord, give us this bread **always.**”

35 Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to me shall **not hunger**, and he who **believes in me** shall **never thirst.**”

(John 6:34-35)



The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way...

“The Eucharist is our **daily bread**.
The power belonging to this divine
food makes it a **bond of union**.
Its effect is then understood as
unity, so that, gathered into his
Body and made members of him,
**we may become what we
receive...**” (CCC 2837)

See also, paragraphs 1212 and 1988
in the *Catechism* on “divinization”



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) puts it this way...

“The ultimate promise of the Gospel is that we will share in the life of the Holy Trinity. The Fathers of the Church called this participation in the divine life ‘**divinization**’ (*theosis*). In this we see that God does not merely send us good things from on high; instead, we are brought up into the **inner life** of God, the communion among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...”



47 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **believes** has **eternal life**. 48 I am the **bread of life**. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and **not die**. 51 I am the **living bread** which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he **will live for ever**; and the **bread** which I shall give for the **life of the world** is **my flesh**.” (John 6:47-51)



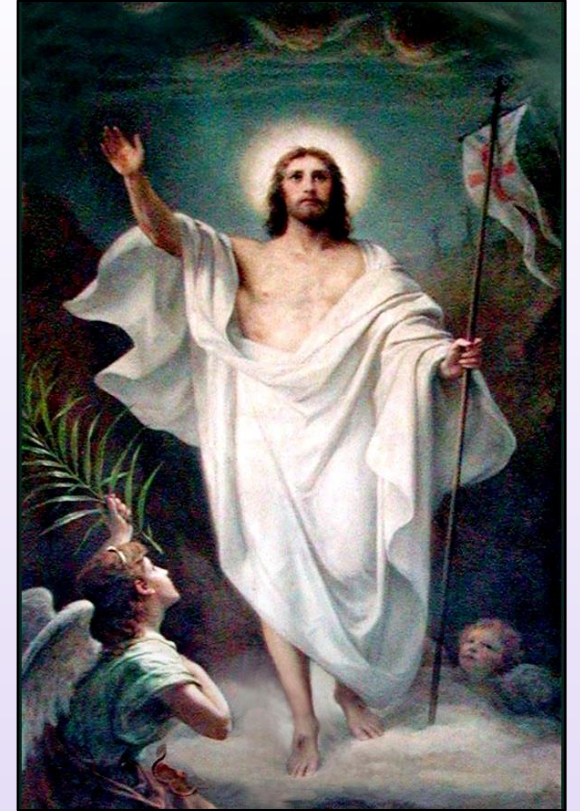
**Remember,
“the food
which endures
to eternal life”
is Christ himself!**

- ❖ How is Christ going to feed *himself* to us?
- ❖ He will feed himself to us under the consecrated species of *bread* and *wine* (CCC 1413)
- ❖ Jesus will consecrate the *bread* and *wine* into his Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-28)



52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his **flesh** to eat?”

53 So Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, unless you **eat the flesh** of the Son of man and **drink his blood**, you have **no life in you**; 54 he who **eats my flesh** and **drinks my blood** has **eternal life**, and **I will raise him up at the last day**. 55 For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink **indeed**. 56 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in me**, and **I in him**. 57 As the living Father sent me, and **I live because of the Father**, so he who **eats me will live** because of me... (John 6:52-57)



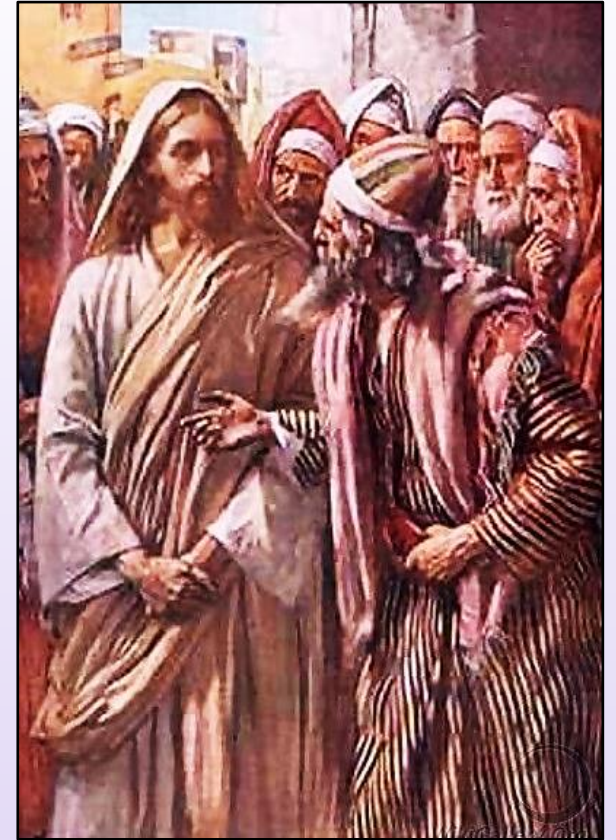
60 Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said,
“This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

61 But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, **“Do you take offense at this?**

62 Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? 63 **It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**

64 But there are some of you that **do not believe...**”

66 After this **many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him.** (John 6:60-64,66)



**The drinking
of blood was
forbidden in the
Book of Leviticus.
Not because it was
gross, but because
it was *sacred*...**

- ❖ “If any man of the house of Israel or of the strangers that sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. **For the life of the flesh is in the blood**; and I have given it for you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement, by reason of the life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.” (Leviticus 17:10-12)
- ❖ What God forbid man to do in the *Old Testament*, He now commands us to do in the *New Testament (John 6:51-54)*. The *Letter to the Hebrews* explain why:

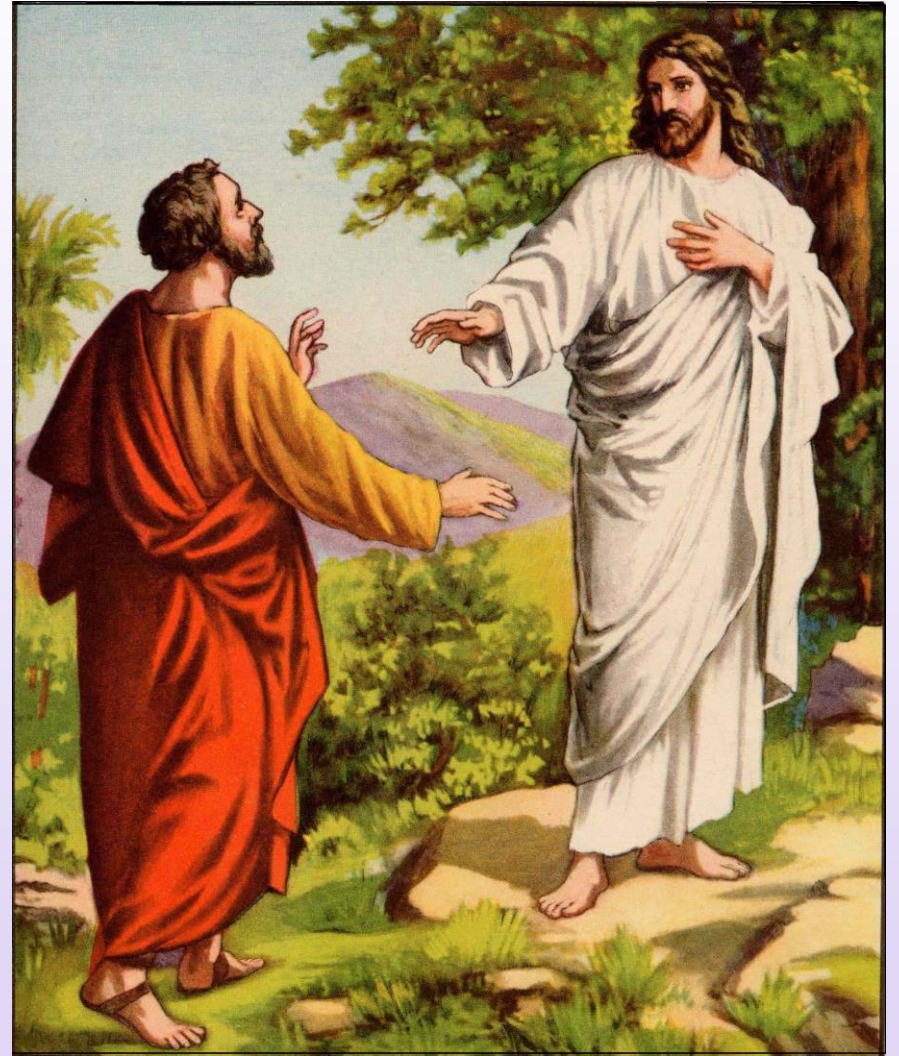


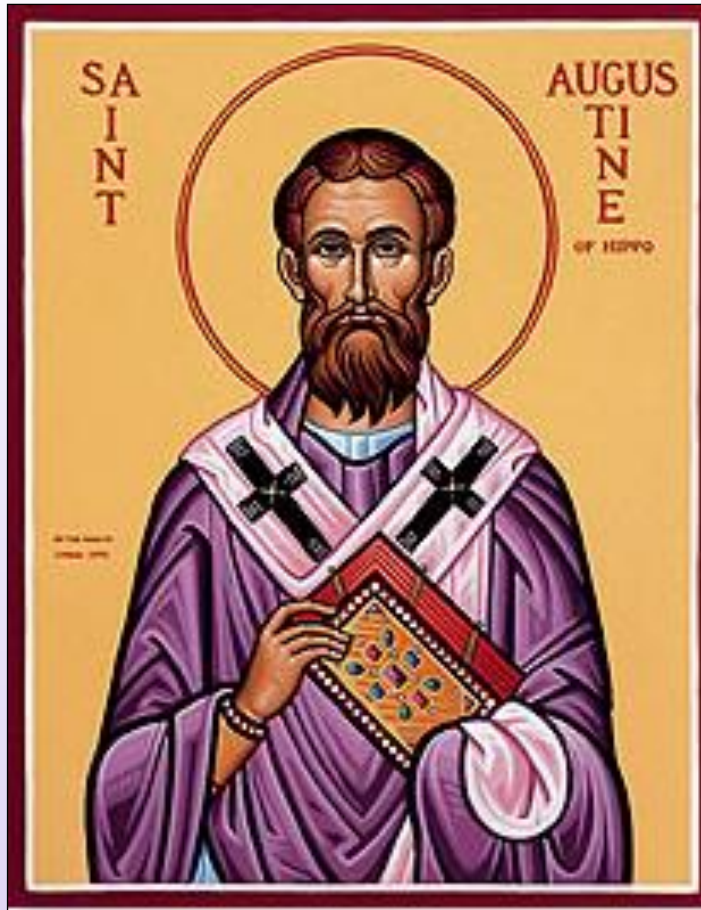
Chapter 10: Letter to the Hebrews...

“For it is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me... 9 then he added, "Lo, I have come to do thy will." **He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11** And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins,** he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 then to wait until his enemies should be made a stool for his feet. 14 **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.** 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 "This is the *covenant* that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," 17 then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more." 18 **Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.”** (Hebrews 10:4-5; 9-18; CCC 599-623)



67 Jesus said to the Twelve,
“**Do you also wish to go away?**”
68 Simon Peter answered him,
“Lord, to whom shall we go? You
have the **words of eternal life**;
69 and **we have believed**, and
have come **to know**, that you are
the Holy One of God.” (John 6:67-69)





“If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Gospel you believe in, but yourself...”

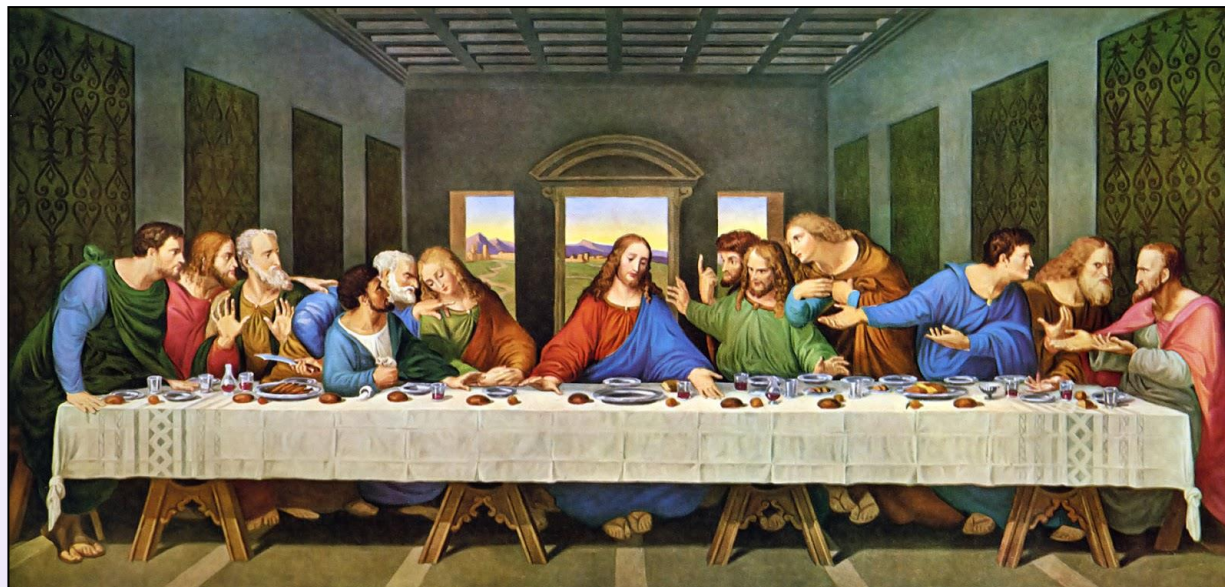
-St. Augustine of Hippo
(b.354 AD, d.430)



**Jesus also
commanded us to
“eat his flesh” and
“drink his blood”
so he could
cleanse us of our
venial sins
(see, CCC 1393-1395)**

- ❖ In **Chapter 26** of Matthew's record of the Gospel, Jesus tells us that eating his body and drinking his blood is part of the *New Covenant* for the “forgiveness of our sins...” (vs. 26-28)





Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; **this is my body.**” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; for this is **my blood of the covenant,** which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins...**” (Matthew 26:26-28)





- ❖ Jesus is the Lamb of God who “takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Just as they sacrificed lambs in the Old Testament for the forgiveness of sins, Jesus will sacrifice himself for the forgiveness of our sins!
- ❖ According to the instructions of the sin-offering, you have to “eat the lamb” to complete the ritual (see, Leviticus chapters 6-7 and 16)



**Jesus also
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“eat his flesh” and
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- ❖ Plain bread and wine does not have the power to forgive us of our sins. Only the Presence of Christ can cleanse us of our sins. Therefore, Christ must truly be present in the consecrated Bread and Wine... (see, CCC 1416)



Transubstantiation:
How something can
look the same, yet
be different...

- ❖ Sacred Scripture reveals that Jesus had the power to alter matter:
- ❖ When Jesus touched a person with leprosy, they were instantly healed (Mark 1:40-45)
- ❖ When Jesus was caught in a storm, he was able to calm the wind and sea (Luke 8:22-25)
- ❖ At the Wedding of Cana Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-5)



Transubstantiation:
**How something can
look the same, yet
be different...**



Your house is your home until you sell it, then it becomes someone else's home. The walls are the same, the floors are the same, the windows are the same, the architectural design is the same, however, the meaning—or the *substance*—of what your house was to you has changed. It is no longer your “home,” it is just a house to you...



Transubstantiation:
**How something can
look the same, yet
be different...**



A diamond ring is a piece of jewelry with a metal band and a rock on top of it. But when a man buys that piece of jewelry and gets on one knee and says to the woman he loves, “Will you marry me...” that piece of jewelry becomes a Diamond Engagement ring. The meaning—or the *substance*—of the ring has changed forever!



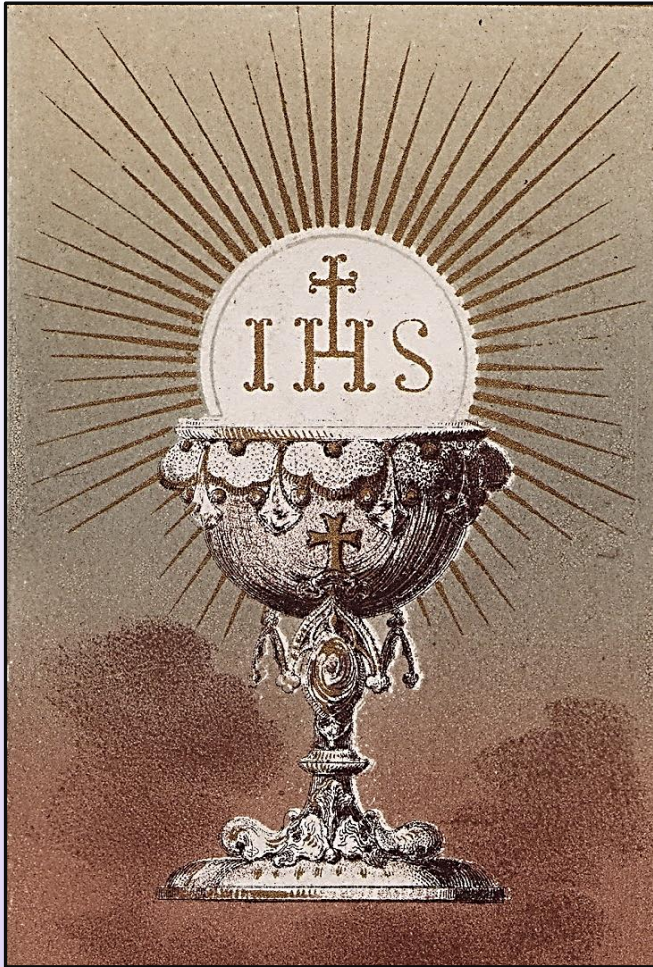
Transubstantiation: How something can look the same, yet be different...



The *substance* of the ring now means: love, fidelity, children, to death do us part. Are these things real? Yes, of course! Can you see with your eyes they are real? No, you can't see them, but you know inside of you that these invisible realities are real!

We walk by faith, not by sight...
(2 Corinthians 5:7)





Always REMEMBER!

“It doesn’t matter if we understand **how** the Body and Blood of Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist, we should trust that Jesus knows what he is talking about even if we do not. After all, the Son of God is not a liar...”

- *Fr. Mark Matthias*



Supernatural Evidence:

The miracles of consecrated Hosts



Santarem Portugal
(13th century)



- ❖ A miracle happens every time the bread and wine are transubstantiated into the Body and Blood of Christ at Holy Mass
- ❖ However, the term “Eucharistic miracle” can also refer to extraordinary empirical signs of Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist, such as bleeding hosts or the transmutation of a consecrated host into a piece of cardiac muscle tissue.

Eucharistic Miracle in Mexico, 2006



- ❖ In Oct. 2006, a parish in the Chilpancingo-Chilapa Diocese of Mexico held a retreat. During mass, two priests and a religious sister were distributing communion when the religious sister looked at the celebrant with tears in her eyes. The Host that she held had begun to effuse a reddish substance.
- ❖ To determine the validity of the event, Bishop Alejo Zavala Castro asked Dr. Ricardo Castañón Gómez (who researched the Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires) and his team to conduct scientific research.



Eucharistic Miracle in Mexico, 2006



- ❖ In 2013, the research concluded that: “The reddish substance analyzed corresponds to blood in which there are hemoglobin and DNA of human origin... The blood type is AB, similar to the one found in the Host of Lanciano and in the Holy Shroud of Turin.”

<http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/en/download/tixtla.pdf>



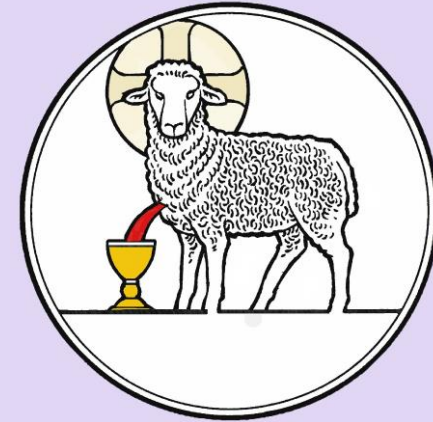
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Why the Real Presence of Jesus
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Jesus said...

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my *flesh*." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his *flesh* to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you *eat* the flesh of the Son of man and *drink* his blood, you have no life in you; he who *eats* my flesh and *drinks* my blood has eternal life, and will raise him up at the last day..." (John 6:51-54)