

“I am the Living Bread”: This feast of Corpus Christi is a day of joy for the Church in the United States as we begin the Year of Parish Revival, the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival. This year will be a year dedicated to renewing and restoring our parishes in Eucharistic culture and spirituality, bringing people deeper into the love of Eucharistic Jesus.

a) What’s Jesus’ approach to Euch.? Today’s gospel is conclusion of chap. 6 of John.

1. Jn 6:1-15; *Multiplication of bread*: what is the message that comes from this miracle? If you give me one bread, I am able to change it the (multiply it) the way I want. I can do that.
2. Jn 6:16-24; *Walking on the water*: Jesus floating upon the water. What happens? Change happens, not to the water, but to the body of Christ. What Jesus is saying through this miracle is: I can make of my body, what I want; means to float over the water. Only after proving that he can make of his body, what he wants, through two miracles, that Jesus continues to talk about the bread as his body: the Eucharist.
3. Jn 6:25-60: To his listeners, Jesus said: this bread is my body. He did not say, this bread is ‘like my body’. He added: he who does not eat my body and drink my blood’ will not have eternal life. Means, we need to ‘eat his body’ and ‘drink his blood’. Do we have doubts on this?

But there was doubt, for many who were listening to him there. They asked: How can he give his body to be eaten? How can he give us his blood to drink? They went away, saying “who can understand this?”

Now, how would Jesus react to someone who goes away in the normal context? He is the one who leaves the 99 to go in search of the one lost! But look here, did he go after them to call them back? Did he say, “don’t worry, even if you don’t understand, still you can stay”. No, surprisingly he is not calling anyone back. Instead, he is asking the 12: do you too want to leave? Means, he is saying, you too can go, if you want.

Why, because *Jesus is not ready for a compromise regarding the Eucharist, his body*. Out of the millions of Christians in the world, even if the vast majority wants to walk away, without believing what Jesus said; even if you or me not believing it as a guarantee to enter the Kingdom, Jesus is not ready for a compromise; does not want to dilute his statement on what he said: “this is my body, this is my blood”.

b) *Satan’s approach to Eucharist*: It is no surprise that there are thousands of Satan worshippers in the world, who worship Satan through black mass. They use stolen

consecrated bread from the church secretly. There are thousands of religions and many thousands of religious symbols like, cross, rosary, etc. But why they look exclusively for “Holy Euch.” for their worship? Satan knows that Jesus is present in Euch., and to please Satan and desecrate and abuse Jesus, they need to abuse H. Euch. They spent money to obtain it! (Hobart-cap. of Tasmania in Australia story)

c) What is science’s approach to Eucharist: (“scientifically proven Euch. miracles”) - In 750AD, a priest experienced a terrible temptation to doubt the True Presence while He was celebrating Mass. As he pronounced the words of consecration, the host and the wine transformed into what appeared to be flesh and blood.

In 1970, more than 1,200 years later, the archbishop of Lanciano, with Rome’s approval, requested a thorough scientific examination of the miraculous relics by Dr. Edward Linoli, director of the hospital at Arezzo and professor of anatomy, histology, chemistry, and clinical microscopy. His report, submitted on March 4, 1971, detailed the following results:

- The coagulated substance is human blood, AB blood group, with the same protein distribution as found in normal, fresh blood
- The host is human muscular tissue of the myocardium-human heart’
- Like the blood, the flesh is also fresh, living tissue.
- Histological tests revealed no sign of preservation techniques of any kind.

Dr. Frederick Zugibe, a forensic doctor at Columbia University who examined the Argentinian Eucharistic miracle of ‘94, shocked to see- myocardium tissue of human heart, AB + blood. Similarly, 2 non-believing, atheistic scientists were given portions of the transformed Eucharistic flesh- without revealing them what it was, came out with the results, similar. Both converted into Catholic faith! (History& Science)

So many people, especially the young have rejected religion and Eucharist as “unscientific.” So here’s the science to prove our faith. Others say they don’t believe in religion because it’s just opinion or contrary to “reason.” Here’s quantifiable, measurable, physical evidence. But more and more are happening here.

Why has the Lord allowed increase of Eucharistic miracles in the last few decades? Are we, like doubting Thomas, refusing to believe unless we see, touch, and feel for ourselves? Jesus in his love for Thomas allowed him to see, touch, and feel his wounds to believe. Yet he said, “Blessed are those who believe, without seeing.”

The Church teaches: “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.*” CCC 1374 + (Bl. Carlo Acutis) The greatest gift Jesus ever gave to humanity is his own body! Amen.