

- Why listen to Mary the Mother of Jesus? - 9.
To gear up ones pace towards heaven.
- Why recognize the Body of Jesus in the Living Eucharist? - 8. 
- Why feed on the Eucharist? - 7.
- Why confess oneself with a Catholic Priest? - 6.
When God sees our hearts all the same?
- Why go to Church? - 5.
Rather than pray at home.
- Why be Catholic? - 4.
Respecting Orthodox, Protestants, and Jehovah's W., etc.
- Why be Christian? - 3.
Respecting Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, etc.
- Why and How to trust the S. Scripture? - 2.
- Why and How to believe in God? - 1.
- Why is there Suffering? - 0. 



EVERY LAST THURSDAY
of EACH MONTH at 6.30 pm
BEGINNING THURSDAY 27th OF MARCH
OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ANSWERING BASIC QUESTIONS OF FAITH "FROM ZERO TO THE EUCHARIST"

Taken from the Italian series presented by Friar Volantino.

Catechesis No. 8

Why recognize the Body of Jesus in the Living Eucharist?

In these evenings, we'll read and try to explain some passages of the

- **Word of God (AT, NT)**
- **Teaching of the Catholic Church (from the Fathers of Contemporaneity)**
- **Personal experiences ...**

INTRODUCTION:

- PREMISE: Explanation of the Eucharist¹ and Communion ... - TWO PRACTICAL EXAMPLES:

"If lacking in recognition towards a man is unjust, let's imagine how it would be unjust towards God?"
"If a young man has recognition towards others sacrifices, then he will surly have all the other virtues?"
(St. John Bosco in the Homily of Mons. E. Dal Covolo Magnificent rector of the PUL)

a. Word of God

OLD TESTAMENT

PREFIGURATION OF THE NEED TO SEE AND RECOGNIZE THE LIVING BREAD DOWN FROM HEAVEN

1. "My eyes will flow without ceasing, without rest, until the LORD from heaven looks down and sees" (**Lam 3:49-50**). And then, in the New Testament, Jesus explains: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (**John 6:51**)

PREFIGURATION IMPORTANCE TO RECOGNIZE THE LORD IN HIS PEOPLE, AS HIS PORTION

2. "The LORD's portion was his people.." (**Deut 32:9**)
3. "Balaam, however, perceiving that the LORD was pleased to bless Israel, did not go aside as before to seek omens, but turned his gaze toward the wilderness. When Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped, tribe by tribe, the spirit of God came upon him, and he recited his poem:".. Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you!"
In a blaze of anger at Balaam, Balak clapped his hands and said to him: "It was to lay a curse on my foes that I summoned you here; yet three times now you have actually blessed them!" (**Num 24:1-3.9-10**)

NEW TESTAMENT

THE IMPORTANCE TO RECOGNIZE THE BODY AND BLOOD OF THE LORD WHEN WE EAT IT, FOR NOT EATING AND DRINKING OUR CONDEMNATION..

4. "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself" (**1Cor 11:29**)
5. "Judas ate the bread of the Last Supper, but.. After he took the morsel, Satan entered him" (**cf. John 13:21-30**)
6. "Do you not have houses in which you can eat and drink? Or do you show contempt for the church of God..? Therefore, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. If anyone is hungry, he should eat at home, so that your meetings may not result in judgment" (**1Cor 11: 22. 33-34**).
7. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread.. I will raise him on the last day.. and will live forever" (**cf. John 6: 51.54.58**).

RECOGNIZE THE WORD OF GOD MADE FLESH.

8. "What we have seen with our eyes.. and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life for the life was made visible; we have seen it.. and was made visible to us what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you" (**cf. 1Jn 1: 1-4**).
9. "Put your finger here and see!.. Thomas answered and said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'" (**John 20: 27-28**).
10. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven" (**John 6:51**).
11. "And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (**Lk 24: 30-31**).
12. "And he saw and believed" (**John 20:8**).

RECOGNIZE JESUS IN THE MEMBERS OF HIS CHURCH THAT IS HIS BODY (cf. Col 1:24), IN THOSE WHO STRIVE TO IMITATE HIM.

¹ The word Eucharist comes from a greek noun that means "One who recognizes". Then, the adjective ευχαριστος: eucàristos means "Thanks giving".

13. "Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (Matt 25:37-40) (cf Matt 25:31-47).
14. "He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting"" (Acts 9:4-5) (cf 22:7-8; 26: 14-15).
15. "So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit". Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight..." (Acts 9:17-18)
16. "Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me" (Lk 10: 16).
17. "Be thankful!" (Col 3,15)
18. "Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father" (Matt 10:32)

b. Teaching of the Catholic Church

PATRISTIC AGE

ONE NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS THROUGH FAITH IN THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH AND SHOWING IT WITH THE FACTS

19. **SAINT JUSTIN** (Martyr, beginning 2nd cen. - † 164): "No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ." (JUSTIN, Off. Of Read., 3rd Sun. of Easter).
20. **SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN** (Bishop, 339 - † 397): "Who can give greater witness than one who "acknowledges that the Lord Jesus has come in the flesh" (1John 4:2) if not the one who keeps the commandments of the Gospel? Instead one who hears but does not act, denies Christ! Even if he acknowledges him by his words, he denies him by his deeds.. The true witness is the one who bears witness to the precepts of the Lord Jesus and supports that witness by deeds." (cf. AMBROSE OF MILAN, Off. of Read., 9 October).

RECOGNIZE THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH THAT IS HIS BODY (CF. Col 1:24), THAT IS IN THOSE WHO STRIVE TO IMITATE HIM.

21. **ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH** (Bishop and Martyr, † 107): "I am God's wheat and shall be ground by the teeth of the beasts so that I may become Christ's pure bread. Pray to Christ for me that the animals will be the means of making me a host for God" (IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, Letter to the Romans, Off. of Read., 17th of October; Chap. 4, 1-2; 6, 1 - 8, 3; Funk, 1, 217-223).
22. **SAINT PATRICK**, (Bishop 385 - † 461): "I will give thanks to my God without ever getting tired, because he preserved me in faithfulness on the day of test, so that today I may offer my life as a living host to Christ my God, who saved me from all my cares." (PATRICK, Confessions, Chap. 14-16; PL 53, 808-809).
23. **ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO** (Bishop, 354 - † 430): "The One who said: "Every time you have done this to one of the least of my brothers you have done it to me" (Matt 25:40), calls the true believer the least of his brethren, that is a copy of himself. Indeed Christ is formed in him who receives Christ's mold. who clings to him in true spiritual love. By imitating him he become, as far as is possible to his condition, what Christ is. Saint John says: "He who remains in Christ should walk as he did" (cf. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, Off. of Read., Thur. 5th week O.T.).
24. **ST. COLUMBAN**, (Abbot 525 - † 615): "So let us not seek God as one who dwells at a distance from us, for we have him present with us. He dwells in us as the soul in the body, if only we are sound members of his, if we are dead to sin and immune from the corruption of a perverse will. Then he will truly dwell in us, the one who said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. (cf. Lev 26:12)." (COLUMBAN, Off. of Read., Thurs. 7th week of O.T.).

MIDDLE AGES

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THE LORD'S BODY & BLOOD WHEN FEEDING ON IT, SO TO AVOID EATING & DRINKING ONE'S OWN CONDEMNATION

25. **ST. BERNARD DI CLAIRVAUX** (Abbot, 1090 - † 1153): "Men now believe because they see with their own eyes, and because God's testimony has become fully credible." (BERNARD, Off. of Read., 29th of December)(cf. Eucharistic Miracles, etc...).
26. **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** (1182 - † 1226): "Those who eat the Body of Jesus unworthily, without making a distinction from other food, will eat and drink their own condemnation!" (FRANCISCAN FONTS, 189).
27. **ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI** (1182 - † 1226): "All those being sanctified by the words of the Lord and seeing that the sacrament on the altar in the hands of the priest under the species of bread and wine yet do not believe that it is truly the most holy body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the spirit and divinity, are condemned because the Most High himself who gives witness of it says: "This is my body and my blood of the new covenant [that will be shed on behalf of many], and: "Those who eat my flesh and drink by blood, have eternal life." (FRANCISCAN FONTS, 142).

MODERN AGE

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST WORTHILY

28. **ST. FRANCIS OF PAOLA** (1416 - † 1507): "Beloved brothers, you must clean your conscience at least once a week, so that this Divine Sacrament (of Holy Communion) does not become a condemnation for you." (FRANCIS OF PAOLA, 2nd rule, chap. 2 No. 11).

IN THE EUCHARIST, THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS ARE NOT SYMBOLS BUT REALITY

29. **COUNCIL OF TRENT** (1545-1563): "If anyone denies that in the sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist are contained truly, really and substantially the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently the whole Christ,.. but says that He is in it only as in a sign, or figure or force, let him be anathema". (COUNCIL OF TRENT, 13TH Session, Can. 1).

IN HEAVEN THERE WILL BE A FULL RECOGNITION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM ON THE EARTH

30. **ST. CURATOR OF ARS** (1786 - † 1859): *"On the day of judgment we will see the flesh of our Lord shine through the glorious body of those who received him worthily on earth, as gold shines more than copper or as silver shines more than lead".* (CURATOR OF ARS, 365 days with the St. Curator of Ars, Ed. Gribaudo)
31. **ST. THERESA OF LISIEUX** (1873 - † 1897): *"In Heaven there won't be any indifferent gazes, because all of the elect will recognize mutually that they are debtors of the graces for which they deserved the crown"* (THERESA OF LISIEUX, Story of a soul, manuscript A, chap. 4, No. 99).

POST-MODERN (OR CONTEMPORARY) AGE

THE EUCHARIST IS MORE THAN A PRIVATE MEAL AMONG FRIENDS, BUT A COVENANT WITH ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO ESTABLISH IT

32. **BENEDICT XVI** (Pope from 2005 to 2013): *"The Eucharist is not only a meal among friends. It is the Mystery of a Covenant."* (BENEDICT XVI, International Eucharistic Congress - Canada -, 22nd of June 2008, in "Zenit").
33. **BENEDICT XVI** (Pope from 2005 to 2013): *"The Eucharist can never be a private factor reserved for people who are chosen by affinity or friendship. The Eucharist is a public kind of worship."* (BENEDICT XVI, Homily, 22nd May 2008, Solemnity of Corpus Domini).

RECOGNIZING JESUS ALSO IN THE SAINTS, WHO ARE PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST THAT IS THE CHURCH (CF. Col 1:24)

34. **BENEDICT XVI** (Pope from 2005 to 2013) : *"Each one of the Saints is a portion of Christ.."* (cf. BENEDICT XVI, Roman Observer, 22nd of December 2007).

ONE SHOULD NOT TAKE THE BODY OF THE LORD IF ONE IS CONSCIOUS OF GRAVE SIN

35. **CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH** : *"Saint Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the Body and Blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks damnation upon himself." (cf. 1Cor 11:27-29).*
36. *"Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to Communion."* (CCC 1385)
37. **CATECHISM OF SAINT PIUS X (1912)**: *"He who goes to Communion in mortal sin receives Jesus Christ but not His grace; moreover, he commits a sacrilege and renders himself deserving of sentence of damnation."* (CATECHISM OF SAINT PIUS X, 37).

RECOGNIZING THAT THE EUCHARIST IS CHRIST WHO WANTS TO ENTER IN OUR LIFE

38. **POPE FRANCIS, (Pope from 2013 to ...)**: *"The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wants to enter our life to fill it with his grace."* (FRANCIS, Twitter from the 28.02.2014).

Experiences

EXAMPLES, WITNESSES AND LITTLE STORIES

"The Eucharistic Miracles especially from the 8th to the 12th century's" (cf. Trin. Ins. from pg. 17 to 37)

"The Eucharistic Miracle that happened with Saint Anthony of Padua and the donkey who having fasted for some time preferred to adore the Blessed Sacrament rather than the eat the fodder that was placed before it on purpose. (cf. ANTONIO SALVINI, Saint Antonio of Padua, Edit. San Paolo 200619, Torino, pg. 119-122).

"The true story of the Owner of a hotel who invited the little friars to have dinner with him, he said that he was 'celebrating mass' at his house, with his wife feeding the little friars; referring to a passage from Revelation."

"The true story when a religious person in Sardinia said to a friar who'd for hospitality: "But you aren't Jesus!".. and yet it was raining outside.. So let's all meditate on this (Matt 25:31- 46).

"The true story of a woman who prayed a lot and in a bad way denied some bread for two consecrated people, but afterwards she repented and went to confession."

"The short story of some monks who always had quarrels with each other, hermit, and Jesus hidden among them."

"The event when a little friar who bent his knee in front of a bishop immediately after having consumed the Eucharist, the bishop bent his knee also in front of the little friar who also just consumed the Eucharist."

"Example of those parents who work very hard so to buy a car and other goods for their son and he, once receiving the gifts, spread the news that it was all and only his merit. So if injustice is evident already in this case, imagine how much more unjust is the one who does not want to recognize the Sacrifice of Christ who offered His Body and His Blood to save us from the eternal sufferings of hell and to bring us to Eternal Happiness in Heaven?"

IN CONCLUSION:

The distinction between the Body of Jesus - in action - in those who strive to imitate him, and the body of Jesus – potentially – in those who do not yet imitate Jesus (though they could begin to!).

IN SHORT:

"If even a donkey recognized the Body of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist (as it happened in the Eucharistic miracle with St. Anthony of Padua), what does that make the one who does not recognize it!"

In the end: HAVE A GOOD MEDITATION and a GOOD WALK towards RECOGNIZING the LORD in the Sacrament of the Eucharist and in his followers. All this "Ad Maiorem Dei Gloria et Salutem animarum! Amen!"

NB. In regards to all the passages that we didn't read nor explain, if you're interested in having a deeper knowledge of the topic, according to God and the Church and experience ... you can make an appointment with us at the end of the teaching or through e-mail, and we will come to your house as far as it's possible. We only have to coordinate and unite some people, who thirst for truth!. You find the e-mail on: www.poorfriars.net