

**Homily For 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**We Give You Thanks, O Lord for This Wonderful Gift**  
**Readings: 1st: Pr 9, 1-9; Ps 33; 2nd: Eph 5, 15-20; Gos Jn 6, 51-58**



You know what? It's my dream to go to Lanciano in Italy, a small town, and see the bread that became "real flesh" and the wine that became "real blood." History tells us that there was a priest, a monk who celebrated a Mass and doubted the "real presence" of Christ in the Eucharist and during the consecration the bread and the wine turns into a real flesh and blood of a human person. Until now, there are many people who still ask many questions like: how it happened. Our answer is: "we don't know. Only faith can explain it."

From the book, *Jesus in the Eucharist*, a story is told about a Moslem who proposed three questions to a bishop. He first asked, "How is it possible that the bread and wine can become the Body and Blood of Christ?" the bishop answered, "You are constantly changing the food you eat and the liquid you drink into blood cells to build up your body. So why should it be difficult for Almighty God to change bread and wine into Christ's Body and Blood?"

So, he put a second question, "But how is it possible for Christ, to be present in such a small host?" the bishop answered, "Your eye is very small but with one glance it takes in the whole panorama of sky, mountains and fields and fit them into your little eye. Why then should it be difficult to Christ to be present in such a small host?"

The third time the Moslem persisted, "But how is it possible for Christ to be present in all the host in every church and chapel at the same time?" the bishop answered again, "If you look into a large mirror, you see yourself entirely only once. But if you smash the mirror, you see yourself in a hundred pieces of the mirror at the same time. Why should it be impossible for the Lord God to make Himself present in thousands of host all over the world at the same time? For God nothing is impossible."

Truly, Jesus is present in every consecrated host and in every particle of a host that can still be considered bread in appearance. That is why the priest carefully purifies the communion plate, ciborium and chalice after giving out Holy Communion to the faithful. The particles are placed in the chalice and consumed with the ablution of water.

That is why in our gospel today, Jesus said, "... the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.... for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink," (vv 51b, 55). That anyone who eats His flesh and drinks His blood will live forever.

Advertisements in TV, radio and newspapers are very appealing to us especially that they cater and answer our basic human needs for food and drink. Like for example, to satisfy our thirst, Pepsi provides it: Pepsi the choice of the new generation," or "Coke adds life," as for the Coke, to satisfy our hunger for food.

The purpose of advertisers is to sell us the good life by promising that their products will satisfy our every desire but for a short period of time. Who can satisfy our longing for the rest of our life? It is no other than Jesus Himself by which he said that anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live forever.

In our diet-conscious age, we say, "You are what you eat." This is exactly what Jesus wants for us, to become a part of him. Our bonding with him, especially by sharing the Eucharist, will give us the grace, the strength, and the energy to grow into his goodness. Receiving Holy Communion should make us think like Jesus, speak like Jesus, and act like Jesus.

### Inspirational Quotes

**St John Chrysostom:** "It is not the man who is responsible for the offerings as they become Christ's Body and Blood; it is Christ Himself who was crucified for us. The standing figure belongs to the priest who speaks these words. The power and the grace belong to God. 'This is My Body,' he says. And these words transform the offerings."

**St Cyril of Jerusalem:** "Since Christ Himself has said, 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?"