



From the Pastor
15th Sunday
in Ordinary Time - C
July 10, 2022

**THE MYSTERY OF THE
EUCHARIST IN THE LIFE
OF THE CHURCH**

**WILL IT BE THE SAME OLD/
SAME OLD?** It seems that
each week we meet more
and more people emerging

from the Covid quarantine and making their way
back to the regular 'in-person' practice of the
Faith. **Amen! Alleluia!** So, it's the perfect time to
reacquaint ourselves with - and to renew our
reverence for - the great Gift of **Eucharist**. That's
what the **US Catholic Bishops** hope to help us do
through a three-year **National Eucharistic Revival**
which began last month. If you missed the first
two articles on this **Revival** [06/19, 06/26], go to
our website for past bulletin articles. To read the
Bishops' document go to [https://
eucharisticrevival.org](https://eucharisticrevival.org); for a free study guide go
to [https://
reviveparishes.com/eucharist](https://reviveparishes.com/eucharist).

In part three of our months long, if not years
long, reflection on this **Revival**, we consider
Eucharist as one of God's greatest gifts. Here's
what the Priest prays in the Preface during **Holy
Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** -
one of my favorite Masses of the year:

"For he is the true and eternal Priest,
who instituted the pattern
of an everlasting sacrifice
and was the first to offer himself
as the saving Victim,
commanding us to make this offering
as his memorial.
As we eat his flesh that was sacrificed for us,
we are made strong, and,
as we drink his Blood that was poured out for us,
we are washed clean."

MAKING PRESENT WHAT WAS IN THE PAST.

What the **Church** commemorates with great
festivity and solemn rites on **Holy Thursday**
night, she does at every Mass. For through the
Eucharistic Sacrifice, offered at every **Mass**, she
'makes present' **Christ's** unique sacrifice on the
Cross so that we can join ourselves to it! In
future articles, we will reflect on three aspects of
this Gift: **1] The Sacrifice of Christ; 2] The Real
Presence of Christ; and 3] Communion with
Christ,**

'and the Church; today we'll reflect on **Eucharist**
as 'Gift.'

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT: THE GIFT OF HIMSELF. In
the Nicene Creed, we are directed to **bow** as we
profess these awesome underlined words, "**For
us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was
incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**"

Many say the most wondrous moment in human
history was when our **Blessed Mother** agreed to
conceive **God's Son** in her womb, "**And the Word
became flesh.**" [John 1:14a] At that very moment,
God and humanity were united like never before
- for God came to dwell among us **in the flesh**.
Everything after was 'the icing on the cake:'
Christ's birth and earthly life, His teachings and
miracles, His redeeming **Passion, Death** and
glorious **Resurrection** by which He revealed
what awaits us after our earthly journey. And
yet, as they say, "there's still more!"

Through the mystery of the **Eucharist, God**
continues to dwell with us - and literally lives
with us! For as **Jesus** promised in His **Last
Supper Farewell Discourse**: "**Whoever loves me
will keep my word, and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling
with him.**" [John 14:23] And since **Christmas**
celebrates **Christ's Nativity** AND the nine months
that preceded His birth, we can enjoy another
'little Christmas' every time we worthily receive
Holy Communion! For through the **Eucharistic
elements** of **bread** and **wine** - **blessed, broken
and shared**, consecrated and transubstantiated
[a technical term we will detail in a future
article], **Jesus Christ** is reborn IN US!

WE ARE SHARERS IN THE DIVINE NATURE. In his
second Letter, our first **Pope** wrote, "[**God**] he
has bestowed on us the precious and very great
promises, so that through them you may come
to share in the divine nature." [2 Peter 1:4a] For
when we love someone, we want to be with
them; so, too, with **God**, who loves us and
desires to be with us and desires us to be with
Him. One main way **God** accomplishes this lov-
ing union is through **Holy Communion**. And by
entering into us, we are made divine, or as **Saint
Augustine** explained it: "**the maker of man was
made man, so that man might be a receiver of
God.**" And all this merely scratches the surface
of all that the **Eucharist** can do - for - and in - us!

In Christ,

Father Mark