



From the Pastor
27th Sunday
in Ordinary Time - C
October 2, 2022

ORATIONS: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. In part 8 of our series on **The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church** US Bishops' document, We reflect on the 2nd of the 7 prayers used to end **Benediction**. The 7 'themes' are: **Memorial; True God/True Man; Paschal Lamb of God; Heavenly Bread of Angels; Spirit and Truth; Life-Giving Bread/Viaticum; and Paschal Mystery Renewed.** Past articles on this **Revival**, the whole document, and a free study guide, are on our Parish website: stjustin.org; click on **National Eucharistic Revival Bulletin Articles.**

Eucharistic Adoration - Closing Prayer #2 of 7
 [#1 of 7 will be in a December Bulletin Article!]
Lord our God, in this great Sacrament,
we come into the presence of Jesus Christ, your
Son, born of the Virgin Mary and crucified for our
salvation. May we who declare our faith
in this fountain of love and mercy
drink from it the water of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY. Of the 7 orations prescribed for **Eucharistic Adoration**, prayed before the **Ordained Minister** imparts the **Eucharistic Blessing**, only one of them mentions the **Blessed Virgin Mary**. Some find it strange that **Christ's Mother** and the **Eucharist** are joined in any way, shape or form. For, as far as we know, our **Blessed Mother** was **NOT** at the **Last Supper**; nor does the Bible say she came to know Him "in the breaking of bread." [Luke 24:35] In fact, our belief that the **Risen Lord** appeared to His **Mother** is **not** based on **Scripture** - which has no account of such an event - but on **logic**. For what loving son would **not** console his grieving mother?

As **Saint John Paul II** noted, the **Bible** names very few of those who saw the **post-Resurrection Risen Lord**; **Saint Paul** said He appeared to 500 people [1 Corinthians 15:3-8] but names none! That our **Blessed Mother** did **NOT** go with the other women to the tomb on **Easter** morning - but **WAS** with them at the **foot of the Cross** suggests she had already seen Him on **Easter** morning. So deep was her faith that He would rise again on the third day, the **Church** suggests - on every Saturday that does not have a prescribed **Saint** or

Feast - that we offer a **votive Mass** in our **Blessed Mother's** honor. For on **Holy Saturday**- the day between **Good Friday** and **Easter** - she waited with firm hope; by using **Marian orations** on **Saturday Masses** that highlight her faith, we can deepen our hope and trust in the **Risen Lord**.

NO INCARNATION = NO EUCHARIST! By accepting **God's** awesome offer to become His **Son's Mother**, the **Virgin** enabled **God's Word** to become **Flesh**. As **True God**, **Jesus** is one with the **Father** and **Holy Spirit** in the **Most Blessed Trinity**. But by being conceived and borne in the **Virgin's** womb, **Jesus** is **True Man** and had His **Mother's** DNA. Since the **Eucharist** is His **True Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity**, we receive a share of **HER** DNA when we receive **Holy Communion!** Even **science** attests to this **theology** or **Mariology**, for when we **receive** donated blood, the **donor's** DNA is sometimes found in us, even a few days later!

So, while our **Blessed Mother** has **no** role in **six** of the **Sacraments**, she has a **primary** part in the **Most Blessed Sacrament**: the **Eucharist**. For she provided the necessary elements: her **Son's Flesh** and **Blood** - that becomes the **Eucharist!** If you're scratching your head wondering how this can be - you're in good company: even the great philosopher-theologian, **Saint Thomas Aquinas** - struggled with it - but he accepted it - in faith.

Here's how **Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem.**, a writer for **Catholic Answers**, a periodical to which I subscribe, explains it: "**The DNA Our Lord had from Our Lady as her son is present in the Holy Eucharist, like all the other necessary components of his body. Even so, this DNA is not present in the Eucharist in a manner that the senses would be able to perceive, since Our Lord's bodily qualities are present in a substantial mode, perceptible to faith and understanding but not the senses, not even his senses.**"

So, while we do **NOT** receive the body or blood of **Christ's Mother** when we receive His **Body** and **Blood**, she is 'present' in a unique way. And since she reigns with Him, she is surely close to all who are dear to her **Son**, as a loving mother would be!

In Christ,
Father Mark