

CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE - - HOLY EUCHARIST

PART I

There are three terms commonly used when speaking of THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT: (1) The Blessed Eucharist; (2) The Blessed Sacrament; and (3) TRANSUBSTANTIATION. Transubstantiation is the most important of the three and must be accepted and understood (as much as the mystery of it will allow) otherwise the other two terms become no more than high sounding, meaningless and symbolic words. For many years now, Transubstantiation has not been taught in Catholic schools, consequently the present generations of Catholic people have no grasp of it at all. Nevertheless, Transubstantiation remains the foundation stone of true Catholicity, and one must believe it if one wishes to be classified CATHOLIC. Transubstantiation is what causes the EUCHARIST. The Eucharist is the very core of the Catholic Religion. Remove the Eucharist and you have done away with the Catholic Faith! Remove the Eucharist and EVERY reason for the Catholic Worship Event is completely eliminated.

Recent official documents, if very carefully studied, will lead any mentally honest and sober thinking Catholic - even one with underdeveloped theological experience - to ponder, and to wonder and to ask questions. Not until the protestants appeared on the scene, the Blessedness of the Eucharist remained untarnished for centuries, and for centuries even to recent years, dedicated popes, bishops and priests protected it, even at the cost of their lives. Popes, bishops, priests and people believed it to be - "the Bread of Angels"

The very greatest minds so far in evidence taught it for all that it stood for - NO SYMBOL - - ONLY REALITY;--LOCAL and SACRAMENTAL!

In the last handful of years, the Eucharist - the very central PILLAR of the Catholic Religious world - is under serious attack - the most serious ever. This time not by protestants, but by the very ones who protected It and defended it for generation after generation, and kept IT from being destroyed by the protestants. From the very beginning God demanded sacrifice from the human race, and Man offered to God the best fruits of the earth, that is, until the arrival of Jesus Christ. The demand for sacrifice continues. Now the fruits of the earth are not good enough to please God. Besides why should Man offer the "blood of bulls and goats" when the "Blood of the LAMB" has now become available? Because of Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross, Man can on a daily basis and in an unbloody way can offer the LAMB to God. The LAMB, of course, is Jesus Christ - God. Now Man can offer the perfect sacrifice. Now, in actual fact can offer the sacrifice of a GOD to GOD!! And Man has been ordered by Christ, HIMSELF, to eat of the Flesh of the LAMB, and drink of the Blood of the LAMB. Unless Man does just that Man cannot claim life. Let us call to mind that Man grumbled at the "hard saying" and walked away! Let us also call to mind that Christ did not keep Man from leaving by offering him an explanation by way of a parable.

The Eucharist is now looked upon - in renewed catholicity - not as a sacrifice, but rather as a meal - a banquet event - bringing joy and fellowship to the people as together with their presiding officer share bread and wine with each other. No longer FLESH and BLOOD as commanded, but bread and wine - - - shared with absolutely ANYBODY who cares to join in the sharing! And the presiding officer who presides at the head table looks about to see that EVERYBODY gets plenty to eat and drink. It is a joyful worship event!

(Part II - next week)

Let Us Go To Follow Him...

