

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - HOLY EUCHARIST PART II

After every banquet - after every meal - there are always leftovers, and there is always the need to find a suitable place to store them. In the same way there is need to put away the left over hosts - the hosts that were consecrated but not distributed at the worship event just ended. Catholics the world over were accustomed to the practice of placing left over Hosts in the Tabernacle. They were reserved in the Tabernacle waiting to be distributed at a later Mass. Consecrated Hosts were always to be reserved in the Tabernacle so that faithful people could go into their church and give silent adoration to their Eucharistic Lord and God - their Lord **LOCALLY PRESENT** in the Tabernacle - a prisoner of love. The Tabernacle was looked upon as the "Holy of Holies" the most sacred place on this earth.

Recent developments in the Catholic Religion removed the Tabernacle from its central place of honor - - (a chair replaced It) - - and either discarded altogether or placed in some unimportant location. Now comes the question: where are the unused Hosts - the undistributed Hosts reserved, since there is no Tabernacle?

In the earliest years following Vatican Council II, it simply never occurred to anybody to question the orthodoxy of bishops and priests. The bishop and his priests were the scrupulous custodians of the awesome Blessed Sacrament - the Sacrament of the **FLESH AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**. Improper treatment of the Eucharist was unthinkable. Besides, the bishop and his priests together with the Holy Father were the very embodiment of the Catholic Religion. Even with the removal of the Tabernacle, the faithful never worried about the way the Sacred Hosts were treated because they were in the safest hands possible. For several years nothing was said, but serious minded Catholics could not but wonder as to where the Blessed Sacrament was kept. In their renovated churches there was no evidence of its presence - **ANYWHERE!** As time moved on, it became known that the left over Hosts were brought to the Sacristy and there returned to the "cookie jar" which stored all hosts - the used and the unused, the consecrated and the unseparated. All were thrown together waiting future use.

The serious minded continues to wonder and he ponders in his mind: does the Host lose its importance when mass is over? do the undistributed Hosts lose their consecration? What about the Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ? Does it all evaporate? Wonderment increases as the voices of true Traditional Roman Catholics continue to ring out. Belief in the Eucharist is central - it will not go away. However, as with the Jews who walk away from Christ, for those who refuse to believe no argument, no proof is possible.

Unfortunately, with the passage of time most Catholics have become conditioned to the "renewed" worship environment today found in the average catholic church. The average catholic has hardly more than a protestantized attitude toward the Sacred Host, and his attitude is easy to detect in the auditorium atmosphere now quite prevalent in catholic churches. The very idea of the host being changed - - **TRANSUBSTANTIATED** - - to the Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ is repugnant to the average catholic. In addition to that, the catholic children, home from a day in a catholic school, have for a long time been heard speaking of the Eucharist as **SYMBOLIC!** The reality of the Eucharistic Miracle, the **MYSTERY** of the **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**, the **LOCAL** and **SACRAMENTAL** presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist has given way to the **OMNIPRESENCE** of God! and the majority of Catholic People walked mindlessly into a renewed uncatholic religion - accepting every renovation as the work of "The Spirit of Vatican II". Many innovations would be much more proper as circus performances than acts of worship. Such acts cannot be classified as worthy of any divine cult! Since the Mystery of the Consecration - the **True MYSTERY OF FAITH** - has been reduced to no more than a feature of an over-all worship event, the place to store the Blessed Eucharist is of no further consequence. The local - **SACRAMENTAL** - presence of Jesus Christ, confined in a wafer of bread, has dried up in the minds of most catholic people, and sad to say - - **MOST** priests. What was once a matter of the most meticulous and scrupulous concern has become a matter of callous unconcern and disregard. Lack of reverence in the modern catholic church should be ample proof. The protestantized eucharist - the symbolic eucharist - is now a sharing of bread and wine with just about anybody and everybody - a fellowship symbol.

The "Ad Orientem" controversy - still in progress - has brought about the recent issuance of the proclamation of norms which are to govern the saying of mass. These regulations are not new, rather they underline more emphatically the norms that have been in practice for a long time. Allegedly the focus of the proclaimed norms is the televised mass, the purpose being to bring the televised mass more into conformity with the norms usually practiced throughout modern day catholicism. Essentially, the attitude toward the Most Blessed Sacrament remains what it has been for some thirty years - an attitude that removes the Most Blessed Sacrament as the main obstacle to catholic-protestant unity. The revived talk about the return of the Tabernacle to the central place in the the sanctuary should not be taken as an attitude change in the Eucharist. The added emphasis that only the hosts consecrated in the mass in progress are to be distributed, continues to add to the problem concerning the final destination of consecrated hosts. The return of the Tabernacle does not solve the problem - its return is not the return of the "**HOLY OF HOLIES**". where the Bread of Angels is reserved! Eucharistic devotion is in serious disarray! Eucharistic devotion as noted in the silent visit by the devout in church, is no longer thought of as a private conversation with God - so why the Tabernacle. The Catholic mind of the ages assumed that God is present in the Host "**LOCALLY**" and in a confined way. Such mentality is repugnant to the thinking of the modern day catholic who grasps at the omnipresence of God. Such a man rejects going to church on the ground that God's omnipresence is just as much in his back yard as it is in the church. Modern man cannot grasp the meaning of **SACRAMENTAL** presence - - - **SO WHY THE TABERNACLE?** If this is the way that an obedient, trusting and a proper catholic must travel, such a one must come to believe that God's omnipresence is to be found as much in a pencil or a watermelon as it is to be found in the **MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT!**