



# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 12

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Dec. 10, 2023

### Mary Leads Us To The Eucharist

Pope John Paul II

"Hail, Jesus, Son of Mary, in the sacred Host you are the true God". Joining in spirit with those attending the 19th International Marian Congress, I recall the words from a hymn that in Poland often accompanies Eucharistic adoration and processions. I repeat them because they contain the truth that, together with praising Christ present in the mystery of the Eucharist, almost of necessity we recall the memory of the Mother of God.

It is thanks to her generous fiat that the Word of God was made flesh by the work of the Holy Spirit. She offered her own body to the Word so that He might take it upon Himself and the miracle of the Divine Incarnation would be accomplished. In her virginal womb Mary bore the Incarnate Word, awaiting "with love beyond all telling" the birth of the Saviour-as the liturgy states (Pref. of Advent II). When she gave birth to the Son of God she was, in a certain sense, the first to worship his presence among men.

Together with Joseph she took the Divine Child to the temple to offer Him to God according to the prescriptions of the law. Even then, through ...continued page 2



### O Mary, Conceived Without Sin, Pray for Us Who Have Recourse to Thee.

Bright as the sun fair as the moon  
She reigns who held within her womb  
The Word made flesh God's Son made hers  
To whom the angel host defers

Night is not dark where she stands bright  
The woman robed in living light  
Crowned with the stars who served on earth  
The Word to whom her faith gave birth

Oh God we read by her love's flame  
The Word in whom we sing your Name  
We bow before Your majesty  
One holy three-fold Mystery

Genevieve Glen OSB

## ... Continued Mary Leads Us to Eucharist

the words of Simeon, God had revealed to her that the sword of sorrow would pierce her heart, when her Son became the sign of contradiction 'for the fall and rising of many!' (Lk 2:34). This was the announcement of Mary's participation in the saving work of Christ, Priest and Victim, which was to be accomplished on Golgotha. "At the foot of the Cross out of love for your Son, she extended her motherhood to all men, born again from by the death of Christ for a life that will never end.... Taken up into heavenly glory, with maternal love she accompanies the Church and protects her on the way to her homeland until the glorious day of the Lord" (Italian Missal, Pref. of the Blessed Virgin Mary III)

Every Holy Mass makes present in an unbloody manner that unique and perfect sacrifice, offered by Christ on the Cross, in which Mary participated, joined in spirit with her suffering Son, lovingly consenting to His sacrifice and offering her own sorrow to the Father (cf. *Lumen gentium*, n. 58).

Therefore when we celebrate the Eucharist, the memorial of Christ's passover, the memory of His Mother's suffering is also made alive and present, this Mother who, as an unsurpassable model, teaches the faithful to unite themselves more intimately to the sacrifice of her Son, the one Redeemer. Through spiritual communion with the sorrowful Mother of God, believers share in a special way in the paschal mystery and are opened to this extraordinary action of the Holy Spirit which produces a supernatural joy because of communion with the glorious Christ, on the example of the joy granted to Mary in the glory of heaven, as the first person to share in the fruits of the Redemption.

“Every Holy Mass makes present in an unbloody manner that unique and perfect sacrifice, offered by Christ on the Cross, in which Mary participated, joined in spirit with her suffering Son, lovingly consenting to His sacrifice and offering her own sorrow to the Father”

*Mary and the Eucharist.* The organizers of the 19th International Marian Congress in Jasna Gora proposed this as a theme for study and prayer. And it is a correct choice, especially in view of the International Eucharistic Congress that will be held next year in Krakow. In this way, just as Mary is present at the beginning of the mission of the Incarnate Word, and thereby at the origins of the Eucharist as well, the Marian Congress this year marks the start of the Church's spiritual preparation to make the Eucharistic Congress a fruitful experience. May these days bring you all close to her who—throughout her life in communion with her Son, not only by ties of blood but especially by love—is the most perfect Teacher of that love which enables us to be united in the deepest way with Christ in the mystery of His Eucharistic presence. Let Mary lead us to the Eucharist!

I ask all of you who are gathered in Jasna Gora for the Marian Congress to pray for the intentions of the Church and the world. As we give thanks for 20 centuries of Mary's protection of the Church, let us together ask her to lead believers towards an ever more perfect knowledge of the saving power of the Sacrifice of Christ, who is present in the Eucharist. Let us pray that the living experience of communion with Christ may bear fruits of zeal in the hearts of all Christians as they build up a communion of love among men. May the Mother of God lead us into the third millennium, united around the Word of God who was made flesh in her. I cordially bless you all. (Castel Gandolfo, 15 August 1996.)

## Knowing That God is Involved in Every Detail

Mike Allison

The National Eucharistic Revival seems like such a huge undertaking. Especially if you are like me, and asking myself at times, "why is my very being, my every thought, my every action not radically changed to an absolute and total holiness after only one reception of Jesus, one consumption of the God of the universe into my weak and feeble body?"

The truth is that I pray I will always have that question as it indicates my desire to know Who it is I receive and my desire to strive to be like Him by receiving Him.

How do those who believe that Jesus is truly present and with us in the Holy Eucharist, convert a nation of nearly 70% of Catholics who do not believe it is Jesus in the Eucharist? Well, we don't. But, God can... one person at a time, by one loving act of courage, one sincere invitation to do as St. Andrew the Apostle did when he encountered the Lord and immediately went to share the good news with his brother Peter when he proclaimed to him, "We have found the Messiah!"

### **St. Andrew is sometimes called, "the great Inviter."**

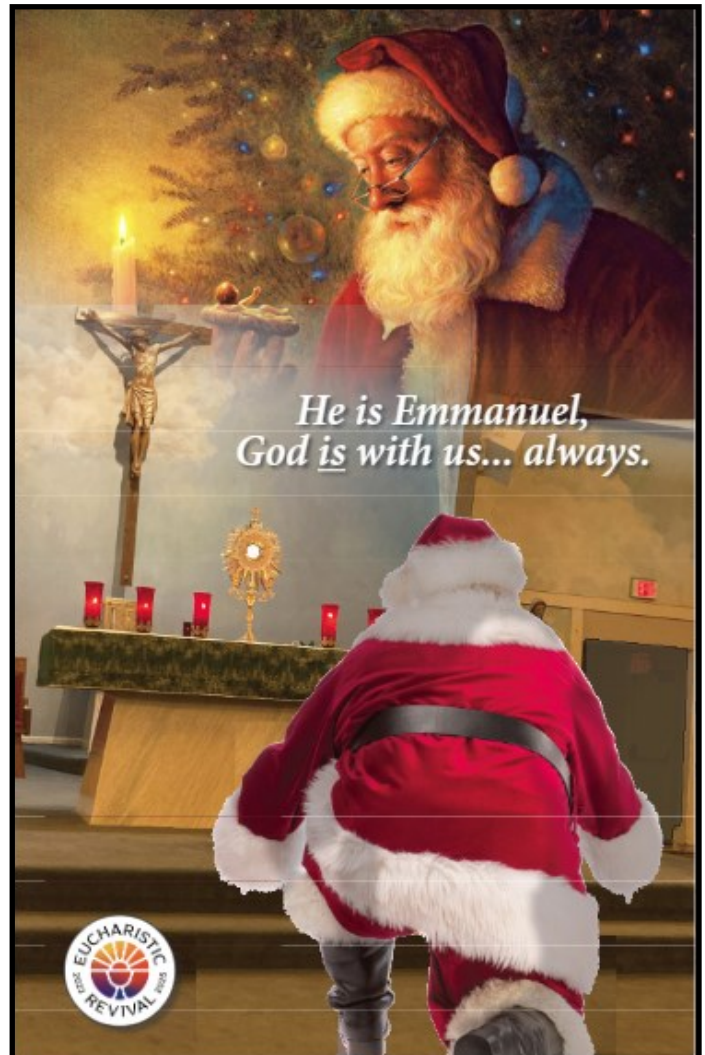
We need to have this same courage and enthusiasm to share this good news of Jesus being with us in the Holy Sacrament as the Apostle Andrew displayed. Look at what God did as a result of this simple heartfelt invitation shared by Andrew. Nothing is impossible with God.

I'd like to share two examples of how our yes to God and a genuine love and concern for another, can make a difference during this time of Eucharistic renewal.

First was at our monthly Fatherhood meeting. I don't want to share all the details as it is not my place, but I will say that we had a man attend who was having some very serious and difficult challenges in his life. We felt for him and wanted to help. By the grace of the Holy spirit we recommended him to take it to the Lord in Adoration at the local church chapel. We all prayed and pointed him to how and where to encounter Jesus. I didn't see him or hear from him for a while until he reached out on an unrelated matter. He later texted and said "Adoration saved me!" Praise God in His goodness.

Second was regarding a neighbor who I found out was Catholic but had not been to Mass for a few years because of the pandemic and her husband was sick. When the Eucharistic Revival year of the parish began, at St. Mel we had a Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi followed by a parish picnic. I invited our neighbors to come to Mass for this great celebration to honor our Lord Jesus. They said yes. Our neighbors loved it and said it reminded them of their home parish in their native home in Hawaii.

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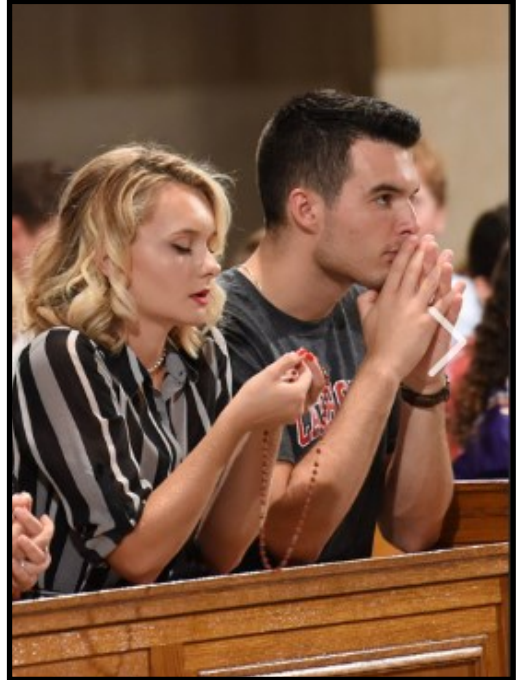


## Prayer Before Mass

Almighty and ever-living God, I approach the sacrament of Your only-begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. I come sick to the doctor of life, unclean to the fountain of mercy, blind to the radiance of eternal light, and poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Lord, in Your great generosity, heal my sickness, wash away my defilement, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty, and clothe my nakedness. May I receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings and Lord of lords, with humble reverence, with the purity and faith, the repentance and love, and the determined purpose that will help to bring me to salvation. May I receive the sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood, and its reality and power.

Kind God, may I receive the Body of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, born from the womb of the Virgin Mary, and so be received into His mystical body and numbered among His members.

Loving Father, as on my earthly pilgrimage I now receive Your beloved Son under the veil of a sacrament, may I one day see Him face to face in glory, who lives and reigns with You forever. Amen.



## Thanksgiving Prayer After Communion

Lord, Father all-powerful and ever-living God, I thank You, for even though I am a sinner, Your unprofitable servant, not because of my worth but in the kindness of Your mercy, You have fed me with the Precious Body and Blood of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that this Holy Communion may not bring me condemnation and punishment but forgiveness and salvation. May it be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will. May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions. May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good. May it be my strong defense against all my enemies, visible and invisible, and the perfect calming of all my evil impulses, bodily and spiritual. May it unite me more closely to You, the One True God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with You.

And I pray that You will lead me, a sinner, to the banquet where You, with Your Son and Holy Spirit, are true and perfect light, total fulfillment, everlasting joy, gladness without end, and perfect happiness to Your saints. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## “And You Are There!”

Brendan McVicker

I remember when I was in grade school and once a month or so we had the privilege to watch a history movie. Movies were great because we loved anything that would get us out of normal class. Each month the movie, hosted by Walter Cronkite, focused on the reenactment of a different major historical event that

took place, for example the capture of John Wilkes Booth or the attack at Pearl Harbor. The same gentleman hosted every show and at the end of the introduction segment for every episode he would say in a loud voice “AND YOU ARE THERE!” It is interesting because as I was thinking of major historical events in the Church, namely, the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ; the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is not a reenactment and you could say “AND YOU ARE THERE!” and that would be in fact a real truth. It truly is miraculous. Jesus passion, death and resurrection is made present here and now in the Eucharist. “Do this in remem-

You Are There: The Capture of John Wilkes Booth (September 6, 1...



brance of Me” is not, as many think, just a thought to think about what took place 2000 years ago in the Upper Room. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) teaches, Jesus wanted “to leave to His beloved spouse the Church a visible sacrifice (as the nature of man demands) by which the bloody sacrifice which He was to accomplish once for all on the cross would be re-presented, its memory perpetuated until the end of the world, and its salutary power be applied to the forgiveness of the sins we daily commit.” I read this article by John Grondelski, “The Eucharist as a Sacrifice” and it spoke to this point so well that I wanted to share part of it with you.....

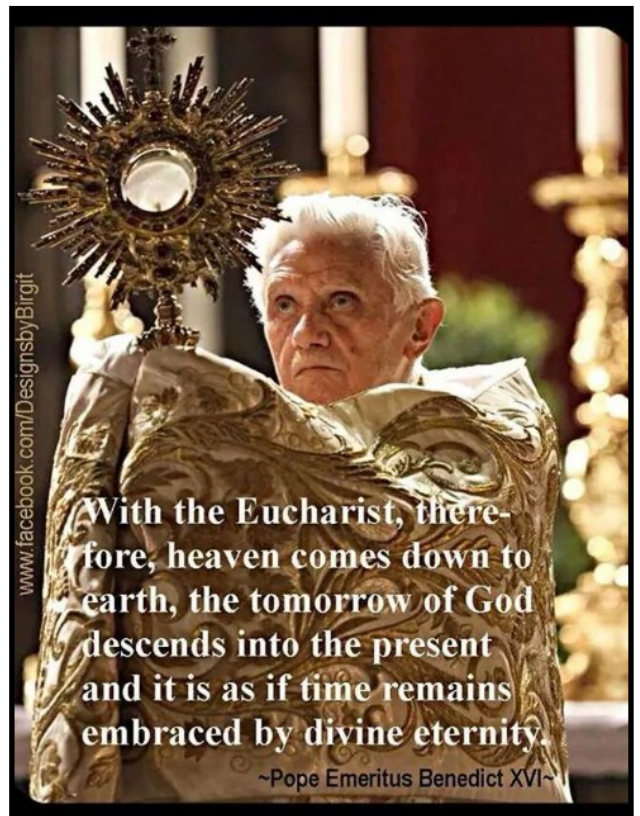
“Jesus clearly intended the Eucharist to be part of his offering on the cross. Catholic theology speaks of the Eucharist as making the “sacrifice of Christ present.”

But Jesus instituted the Eucharist on Holy Thursday night, and he didn’t die until Good Friday afternoon. So how are they connected?

Let’s remember that, for God, time is not past, present, and future. Jesus is not sitting at God’s right hand, waiting to see how history will turn out. “All time belongs to him,” we say during the inscription of the paschal candle at the Easter vigil. For us, mortal creatures, time is experienced as unfolding: past, present, and future. For God, all time is now.

So, yes, Jesus offered himself once and for all (a prime Protestant contention that also corresponds to Heb. 10:10). But Jesus’ offering encompassed his passion, death, and resurrection on Calvary that was already anticipated in the Last Supper and is made present in every Eucharist that has been celebrated from then until the end of time. This is Jesus offering himself.”

...continued page 6



**With the Eucharist, therefore, heaven comes down to earth, the tomorrow of God descends into the present and it is as if time remains embraced by divine eternity.**

~Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI~

## Continued... Knowing That God is Involved in Every Detail

The Mass and procession was absolutely beautiful. The church was packed and all were drawn to the beauty of God's Holy presence and dignity of the occasion. Five months later, our neighbor died of cancer. We offered our love and help in any way his widowed wife needed. Not previously having a regular parish, she chose St. Mel from which to bury her husband. She was accompanied through the entire process. As it turns out, in God's goodness, the Mass was celebrated by a visiting priest who had much experience in Hawaiian culture and put everyone very at ease by respecting their cultural traditions. Yes. God is involved in every detail. We just need to invite Him in.

Remember this Advent, The One we are waiting for, is the One we are waiting with.

Come O Come Emmanuel. God is with us.

## Continued... "And You Are There!"

"Jesus enjoined his apostles to "do this in memory of me"—not as an afterthought, not as a "hey, Jesus did this, and isn't it nice?" No, "memory" here in a Jewish context has a specific meaning. It is a making present of the thing being remembered here and now.

The Last Supper was a Passover meal. The Passover prefigures the Eucharist. When God institutes the Passover, he instructs Moses that Israel is to keep this "memorial" forever (Exod. 12:14) because every generation of Jews stands together with Moses and Aaron and the Jews of Egypt with whom God made this covenant. Even today, during the Passover meal, the youngest child asks, "Why is this night different from all others?" Take note of the verb and adjective: the child does not ask "why was that night different," but "why is this night different?" Before Almighty God, every Jew who was, is, or will be was part of that Passover. And if the Passover merely prefigures the sacrificial offering of the Lamb of God, the real offering on Calvary presupposes just as real a memory: whoever belongs to Christ is joined, in every Eucharist, to the Upper Room and Calvary. If by baptism we become part of Jesus' death (Rom. 6:31-11), well, baptism makes us participants in that death in order to make us part of the mystical body of Christ.

So is the Eucharist a meal? Yes, but a unique kind of meal, because it is also a sacrifice, thanks to which (and thanks only to which) we are saved. By taking part in and receiving the Eucharist, we—the mystical body of Christ—join the supreme offering of our head to God. That is why we speak of the priest as celebrating in persona Christi. It's not "Father John's Mass." It's Christ's Mass, who acts through human ministers to accommodate us, mortal creatures bound to space and time, raising us up to God's dimension not bound by such limits."



## Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Dcn. Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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O Holy Night

The Fraternity of Fatherhood Apostolate  
wishes you all a Blessed Christmas.

This Christmas and the coming year, may His  
peace and love dwell within all your families.

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POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage  
of St. Joseph.**



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.  
Feast Day March 19th**



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To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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