

TRULY PRESENT BY THE POWER OF HIS WORD and THE HOLY SPIRIT...

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Last week we concluded that even though we cannot comprehend Jesus' statement, "MY FLESH IS REAL FOOD AND MY BLOOD IS REAL DRINK"(John 6:55) yet, we believe these words in faith, just as the apostles did.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) # 1373 tells us that"Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us" is present in many ways to his Church. ...But he is present most **ESPECIALLY IN THE EUCHARISTIC SPECIES**".

This mode of Christ's presence in the Eucharistic species is actually **UNIQUE**. Differently from other ways, "in the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist the body and blood , together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore the **WHOLE CHRIST** is truly, really, and substantially contained" (CCC #1374).

We know this is true because Jesus is **TRUTH** and he does not lie.

At each Mass the bread and the wine are converted into the body and blood of Jesus Christ by the **POWER OF HIS WORD** and **BY THE ACTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

"The priest, in the role of Christ, pronounces the words, but their power and grace are God's." (CCC # 1375)

St. Ambrose says: "Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? (CCC # 1375).

In other words, **JESUS WHO CREATED THE WHOLE UNIVERSE OUT OF NOTHING, CAN ALSO CHANGE THE ESSENCE OF BREAD AND WINE INTO HIS BODY AND BLOOD!**

It is the **RISEN BODY** of Christ that is present and whom we adore in the consecrated bread. The Risen body of Jesus was not any longer subject to the physical laws of this world. He could not suffer and die again as before, he did not need to eat food as before. His risen body is glorious and transfigured. Therefore he can make himself totally present in the consecrated bread.

We are created in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27).

When we receive Jesus in holy communion, we can say that we are recreated in the image and likeness of God's Son: **GOD THE FATHER LOOKS AT US, AND HE SEES HIS SON'S REFLECTION**.

By the power of his Word and the Holy Spirit we too are transformed, to the point that we can say: "**IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT IT IS CHRIST WHO LIVES IN ME**". (Galatians 2:20).