

# 2021 Spring Summer RCIA #11

6/28/21

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 26)

- The Eucharist
  - The Greatest Sacrament
  - The Promise Is Kept
  - Bread No Longer
  - Bread and Wine and Priest

# The Eucharist

- The greatest of the seven sacraments where the actual giver of grace himself, Jesus Christ, is present
- A very profound mystery requiring Faith
- The Eucharist (presented at the Last Supper) is discussed in:
  - **Matthew 26:26-29** \*
  - Mark 14:22-24
  - Luke 22:19-20
  - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 \*
- St. John provides the theology for the Eucharist presented at the Last Supper (which is closely related to the Book of Exodus) in **John 6** \*

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- Throughout John's gospel Jesus can be seen as the New Moses bringing about a new Exodus and a new sacrifice
  - **Exodus 2 - 34**
    - Call of Moses
    - Burning bush – I AM WHO AM - YAHWEH
    - Plagues – the Feast of the Passover
    - Red Sea – fear followed by parting of the sea
    - Wilderness – manna, quail, water from the rock
    - Mount Sinai – murmured
    - Torah – Law
  - **Psalm 51:15-19\***

# Manna –The Bread from Heaven

- **Exodus 16:**

- 1-2 The people murmured against Moses
- 4 The Lord promised to rain bread from heaven
- 13 In the morning dew lay round about leaving a fine, flake-like thing –What is it?
- 31 The house of Israel called its name “manna” – What is this?

# The Messianic Banquet in the OT

- References to a Messianic Banquet can also be found in:
  - Isaiah 25:6-9
  - Isaiah 55:1-3
  - Isaiah 65:11-14
  - Proverbs 9:1-6
  - Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd

# Sacrifice in the Old Testament

- Exodus 12 – The Lord gives Moses the Passover sacrifice
- Exodus 24:3-8 -The Covenant sacrifice
- Psalm 51:15-19 – The sacrifice of a contrite heart

# Multiplication of Loaves

- Mark 6: 35-44 Feeding the 5000
- Mark 8: 1-9 Feeding the 4000
- Matthew 14:13-21;15:21-38
- Luke 9:12-17
- John 6:3-14



# The Bread of Life Discourse

- Bread of Life Discourse – John 6
  - Feeding the 5000 – Passover was at hand
    - Five barley loaves – 12 baskets left over
    - Giving thanks - *eucharisteo*
  - Walking on water
    - Fear of the disciples
    - I AM – *ego eimi* – the Holy Name

# The Bread of Life Discourse (Cont)

- Discourse at the synagogue in *Capernaum*
  - Two parts
    - **John 6:32** – call to believe in Jesus as the word - misunderstood
    - **John 6:48** – clarification of his message
  - Jesus calls them to eat his flesh and drink his blood
    - Bread – manna and quail
    - Wine – water from the rock
    - Changed Greek word *esthio* to eat – *trogo* to chew
    - Murmured and walked away

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- It is both sacrifice and sacrament
  - The sacrifice of the Holy Mass
    - Jesus offers himself as the sacrifice
    - We offer ourselves as part of this sacrifice
  - The sacrament of Eucharist (Thanksgiving)
- Why the Real Presence is true and not a symbol:
  - Jesus gave this teaching the night before his crucifixion (very serious event)

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- He did not clarify the teaching as he had with the parables
- He allowed everyone including the disciples to walk away
- The teaching was evident to the Apostles
- Would Jesus leave his followers with such an error of taking this literally if that was not his intent?

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- The choice of bread and wine was a new and strange figure of speech used to symbolize his body and blood
- It is hard to imagine that Jesus would use metaphors to common uneducated fishermen
- St. Paul adds unique words to his presentation of the event even though he did not witness the event

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- Bread no longer –*Transubstantiation* – the substance bread and wine are changed into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ
- Jesus is priest and sacrifice
- The priest is *Persona Christi*
- The Eucharist is the sacrament of unity

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- Form and Matter
  - The **form are the words** of the priest uses speaking as Christ to trigger the infinite power of Jesus
  - The **matter are the bread and wine**
    - The bread must be made from wheat flour and unleavened
    - The wine must be from fermented juice of the grape

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- The consecrated hosts continue to be the body and blood of Jesus so long as they remain in existence
- This permits storage in the tabernacle and Eucharistic adoration
  - Benediction
  - 40 hour devotions
  - Corpus Christi celebrations
  - Perpetual adoration



# The Eucharist (Cont)

- Jesus commanded that this be continued and gave the authority to do so via Holy Orders
- The action of changing the bread and wine into our Lord is called the Mass from the Latin *ite missa est* meaning to be dismissed

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- Other Eucharistic references in the NT
  - Mk 10
  - Mt 26
  - Lk 22
  - Lk 24
  - Acts 2
  - Acts 20
  - 1 Cor 10

# The Eucharist (Cont)

- The Wedding Feast of the Lamb: The Eucharist in Revelation
  - Rev 1:9
  - Rev 19
  - Rev 21

# Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 28)

- Holy Communion
  - So Close to Christ
  - Who May Receive?
  - The Eucharistic Fast
  - Practical Pointers
  - Communicants

# Holy Communion

- The Mass:
  - Provides a sacrifice which renews us via the sacrifice of the cross
  - Effects the soul by giving it grace
  - Is spiritual food which does for the soul what material food does for the body
  - Is a mystical and spiritual union
    - It produces its effect *ex opera operato* – by the sacrament itself not by any effort on our part or that of the priest

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Provides communion with Christ and our neighbor
- Is a decision of the will, not a feeling
- Produces spiritual growth by increasing sanctifying grace
- Remits venial sins
- Lessens concupiscence
- Preserves us from Mortal sin
- Readies us for work

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Who may receive?
  - Every baptized Catholic who has attained the age of reason
  - One who is free from Mortal sin – importance of frequent Confession
  - One who expresses the right intention in receiving it – not to please someone else
- The amount of grace we receive depends on the perfection of our disposition

# Holy Communion (Cont)

- Practical points for communicants
  - Be free of mortal sin
  - Have a right intention
  - Keep the fast (one hour before receipt of communion)
  - We should dress in accordance with the dignity of Communion
  - We may chew the host and must swallow it at some point



# Holy Communion (Cont)

- We may receive Communion twice in one day under certain circumstances
- We must receive Communion at least once a year during Easter time
- We should receive Communion often
- We should end Holy Communion with a period of thanksgiving