

Special Lesson - the HOLY EUCHARIST

What is the Holy Eucharist?

The Holy Eucharist is a sacrament and a sacrifice. In the Holy Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine, the Lord Christ is contained, offered and received.

When did Christ institute the Holy Eucharist?

Christ instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

The Last Supper was a banquet, a ceremonial meal called the Pasover, or Paschal Supper. It was eaten each year in commemoration of the freeing of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. At this meal, the Jews ate the Paschal Lamb which had been sacrificed by a priest. This was the principal sacrifice of the Jews and was a symbol of the future sacrifice of Christ.

At the Last Supper, Christ instituted the Eucharist as the ceremony under which His Sacrifice of the next day on Calvary was to be continued through the centuries. Our Mass is the continuation of this ceremony, but it is a SACRAMENT NOT MERELY A SYMBOLIC ACT OR AN EMPTY CEREMONY; it really contains what the ceremony signifies - THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

Who were present when Our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist?

Only the twelve Apostles were present.

What happened when Our Lord said: "This is My Body - - this is My Blood"?

When Our Lord said, "This is My Body," the entire substance of the bread was changed into His Body; and when He said, "This is my blood," the entire substance of the wine was changed into His Blood.

Did anything of the bread and wine remain after their substance had been changed into Our Lord's Body and Blood?

After the substance of the bread and wine had been changed into Our Lord's Body and Blood, there remained only the appearances of bread and wine (color, taste, weight, shape, smell - etc.)

What is the change of the entire substance of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ called?

The change of the entire substance of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is called TRANSUBSTANTIATION.

Is Jesus Christ whole and entire both under the appearances of bread and under the appearances of wine?

Jesus Christ is whole and entire both under the appearances of bread and under the appearances of wine.

Does this change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ continue to be made in the Church?

The change of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ continues to be made in the Church by JESUS CHRIST, through the ministry of His priests.

When did Christ give His priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood?

Christ gave His priests the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood when He made the apostles priests at the Last Supper by saying to them: "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."

Why does Christ give us His own Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist?

Christ gives us His own Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist:

- (1) to be offered as a SACRIFICE commemorating (NOT a banquet commemorating) and renewing for all time the SACRIFICE OF THE CROSS.
- (2) to be received by the faithful in Holy Communion.
- (3) TO REMAIN EVER ON OUR ALTARS AS THE PROOF OF HIS LOVE FOR US, AND TO BE WORSHIPED BY US.

(The presence of Christ on the Altar in the Tabernacle demands silence and reverence when one enters a Catholic Church)