

The Eucharist is the Source – Center – Summit of our Catholic Faith

- Source – We derive our life from it
- Center – Life of the Church is centered on the Eucharist
- Summit – The greatest part of our faith

Ways to grow closer to Christ

- Study the Faith – listen to tapes, read books, attend this class, read the Catechism . . .
- Adoration of the blessed sacrament – 80% of Catholics in North America don't attend Mass regularly on Sundays let alone make a Holy Hour.

John 6:48-53 – *I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you;*

Sanctifying Grace

- What is Sanctifying Grace – A way that we share in the divine life.
- Where is Sanctifying Grace From – The Seven Sacraments
- Baptism is first in the order of chronology – Gets you ready for the other sacraments
- The Eucharist is first in the order of Grace
- The Eucharist is the number one sacrament – it's the best
- All sanctifying grace comes from the Passion • Death • Resurrection of Christ
- Lent / Holy Thursday is the apex of our faith

Theandric Action – **an action of the God Man – the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

- Priesthood / Eucharist – No Priest, No Eucharist
- Priests can not forgive sin, but God, through them, can.
- How many priests? One! Jesus Christ is the High Priest – However there are many ministerial priests to Shepherd the flock.
- Bread and wine are changed in *Substance* into the **Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity** of Jesus Christ.

Doctrine vs Discipline

Doctrine cannot change – ie. Women can not be priests

Discipline can change – ie. eating meat on Friday, Latin in the Mass

Truth is not determined by a majority vote

Jesus Christ did not intend for eternal truth to be determined by a democratic vote.

CCC 1373&1374: *"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: in his word, in his Church's prayer, "where two or three are gathered in my name," in the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, in the sacraments of which he is the author, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and in the person of the minister. But "he is present . . . most especially in the Eucharistic species." The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as "the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend." 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." "This presence is called 'real'—by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be 'real' too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present."*

The gap between what we believe and what we live is way too big

- You have to believe it, you do not have to understand it.
- Continue to study. He will reveal more and more to you.

Transubstantiation

- Change from one substance to another
- Bread and wine is changed in substance into Jesus' Body and Blood

CCC 1375 - It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament. The Church Fathers strongly affirmed the faith of the Church in the efficacy of the Word of Christ and of the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about this conversion. Thus St. John Chrysostom declares: - *It is not man that causes the things offered to become the Body and Blood of Christ, but he who was crucified for us, Christ himself. The priest, in the role of Christ, pronounces these words, but their power and grace are God's. This is my body, he says. This word transforms the things offered.*

And St. Ambrose says about this conversion: *Be convinced that this is not what nature has formed, but what the blessing has consecrated. The power of the blessing prevails over that of nature, because by the blessing nature itself is changed. . . . Could not Christ's word, which can make from nothing what did not exist, change existing things into what they were not before? It is no less a feat to give things their original nature than to change their nature.*

CCC 1376 - The Council of Trent summarizes the Catholic faith by declaring: "Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation."

CCC 1377 - The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ.