

# THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST

## 1. It is a MYSTERY Of Communion With His Resurrected Body & Blood

- a) for cleansing of soul and remission of sin
  - \* "feeding" the union with the Lord
  - \* from objective salvation to subjective salvation
    - + "His bloody sacrifice" is mystically expanded in our lives through "our unbloody sacrifice"
    - + see Matthew 26, 26-28  
Luke 22,19
  
- b) for communion with the Holy Spirit
  - \* union with Christ
    - + fully God
    - + fully man
  - \* leads to mystical union with the Holy Trinity
    - + Father
    - + Son
    - + Holy Spirit
  - \* which makes possible the union with the Holy Spirit
    - + the "energy of grace"
    - + the "sap" running from the Vine(Christ) through the branches(all the faithful)
  
- c) for fulfillment of the Kingdom of Heaven
  - \* Christ is the Kingdom
    - + at hand
    - + the "door"
  - \* His Body, the Church is the Kingdom in this world
    - + the heavenly touching the earthly
  - \* one Mystery unfolds unto another
    - + the Mystery of the Incarnation leads to
    - + the Mystery of the Church, which leads to
    - + the Mystery of the Eucharist
  
- d) for boldness towards God
  - \* the inner assurance of being united with the Risen Lord
  - \* the constant renewal of the sense of adoption

## 2. God Prepared us for this Mystery

- a) Eating was always an essential ritual of life
  - \* can't survive without it
  - \* it is communion with the food
  - \* it was part of the original fall
    - + the "disobedient eating"
    - + the "obedient eating"
  
- b) Eating was central in the Old Testament
  - \* Melchizedek
    - + was brought bread and wine

- + priesthood was involved
- + associated with "praise and thanksgiving"
- + at a time of deliverance
- \* the Paschal Lamb
  - + the foreshadowing sacrifice
  - + the "holy" meal
  - + associated with praise and thanksgiving
  - + at a time of deliverance
- \* the Manna in the wilderness

c) Eating and the New Testament

- \* changing water into wine in Cana
  - + multiplied
  - + changed
  - + made "better"
  - + no questions "how?"
- \* feeding the five thousands
  - + multiplied bread and fish
  - + thousands were fed
  - + no questions "how?"
- \* talked about Himself as "the bread which came down from heaven"
  - + detailed exegesis of John 6, 32-58

3. This Mystery was instituted by the Lord

- a) "...This is My Body....this is My Blood..."
  - \* the "word" of God
    - + see Matthew 26, 26-28
    - Luke 22, 19
  - \* not a symbolical talk
    - + compare also with:
      - "born again"
      - "I am the Vine"
- b) "...is BROKEN...., is SHED..."
  - \* the Crucifixion and Resurrection are mystically continuing
  - \* in the Church
  - \* see Revelation 5, 6
- c) the Mystery was demonstrated to Luke and Cleopas
  - \* the Mystery of His revealing as He Broke the bread
    - + He vanished
    - + He remained present differently
  - \* see Luke 24, 30-31
- d) not all can take it at all times
  - \* see 1 Corinthians 11, 27-29
  - 1 Corinth 5, 3-5

4. Truly a Mystery

- a) not a natural change

- \* cannot be explained
- \* should not be analyzed
- \* should not be rationalized
- b) but certainly not a symbol
  - \* symbols don't need preparation
    - + excommunication is clear in the New Testament
    - + Paul reminds us that "some died"...
  - \* it is a piece in the chain of mysteries such as:
    - + the Mystery of the Holy Trinity
    - + the Mystery of the Incarnation
    - + the Mystery of the Resurrection...
- c) it is the work of the Holy Spirit
  - \* taking place:
    - + in the world
    - + but not of the world
  - \* "upon us...and upon these gifts..."
    - + changing us into the Mystical Body
    - + changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood
    - + thus changing the earthly into the heavenly
- d) it all happens during the heavenly journey of true worship
  - \* the "work of the people"
  - \* the "communion of Saints"
- e) it is a "Mystical Immunization"
  - \* Jesus took what we already had:
    - + our true human nature
    - + with our true body and blood
  - \* Jesus rose with our human nature
    - + transforming it
    - + transforming our body and blood
    - + making our human nature an "antidote of  
immortality"
  - \* Jesus gives them back to us
    - + transforming ours
    - + preparing ours for immortality
- f) the Early Christians:
  - \* believed it to be the Mystery of His real Body and Blood
  - \* receiving it was the center of Christian life
  - \* they were called "cannibals" because of their belief