

## Corpus Christi



*Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano – rear-lighted pane.  
On the left the heart tissue, on the right the pellets of blood.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

Give us this day our daily bread.

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man,  
you cannot have this life within you.

Take and eat. This is my body.

His disciples did not understand it then, and it still baffles us today. Recent Pew Forum studies have found that, even though 5 out of 6 Catholics believe that Christ becomes present in the consecrated host, only half know that a transubstantiated physical presence is the Church Doctrine.

According to an old tradition, there was an unnamed 8<sup>th</sup> century monk who had doubts about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. One morning, while celebrating Mass, he was astonished to see the host change into real flesh and the wine into real blood. His initial shock gave way to joy as he proclaimed to those near him: “Behold the flesh and the blood of our most beloved Christ!”

Later scientific investigations concluded that the flesh and blood actually do belong to the species *homo sapiens*. More specifically, the flesh consists

of myocardial tissue (the muscular tissue of the heart wall), and the blood contains just the right proteins in the same proportions as normal human blood. Even though this, the first many Eucharistic miracles, occurred thirteen centuries ago, both the flesh and the blood remain intact and are on display at the Church of St. Francis in Lanciano, Italy.

Several weeks ago, it was my turn to repose the Blessed Sacrament at the end of our weekly Eucharistic Adoration. It happened to be the same evening as our Parish Lenten Reconciliation service. While I was meditating in the prayer chapel, I heard some parishioners entering the Church, and realized that the time for the service was approaching. In my mind's dialog, I told our Pastor:

“Don't worry, Father. I'll put *Him* away.”

Immediately I realized what I had just professed to my innermost self.

I would repose **Him**, a person; and not a Host, on display in a monstrance.

And so, Brother Knights, I would like to send you home with a couple of questions for reflection:

#1: Does the Eucharist fit into your daily life?

#2: Have you had a personal Eucharistic presence experience?

On a less serious note, I would like to remind you that St. James & St. Leo's is celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 18 – which also happens to be Father's Day. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights will lead the procession, and all other Knights are invited to fall in behind them. The leaders will be wearing their tuxedos, social baldrics, and 4<sup>th</sup> degree pins. All other Knights are invited to wear a dark jacket and white shirt. If would just like to help with traffic control, please wear your Council shirt. And, at the end of the pilgrimage, your participation will be rewarded with the best Mexican food in town.

Vivat Jesus!