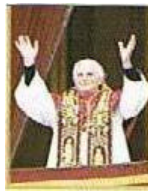


“In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph”

Our Lady of Fatima



**Save
Saint Mary's**
Issue #15 February 19, 2006 A.D.

RESTORE THE SACRED!

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI

In the year 422 A.D. Pope St. Celestine enunciated an axiom in sacred theology. “Legem credendi statuit lex orandi.” From the Latin, translated literally it means “the rule of prayer determines the rule of faith.” In other words, “the way we pray, shows what we believe.”

It is because this axiom is so true that Holy Mother the Church takes great care in making sure the liturgy, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, is carried out with the greatest care. Consequently, the priest is suppose to follow certain rubrics during the Mass, such as genuflecting at certain times, folding his hands, or hands outstretched, enunciating clearly the words of the Mass, especially the Holy Words of the consecration, etc. Why? The reason is to show that the Mass is not like going to McDonalds for a Big Mac, to show, to point out that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is something very special. The Mass transcends time and space because we are being made present to the Redeeming and Salvific act of Christ’s Redemption—the Sacrifice of Calvary. The Mass is the sacred Eucharistic Sacrifice. The Mass is the Sacrificial Banquet!

Unfortunately, over the past 30 years we have seen an excessive emphasis on the meal or banquet aspect of the Mass to the detriment of the sacrificial aspect. And so how many of us have witnessed liturgical aberrations in Masses we’ve attended where the priest might dress up as a clown so “the children can better relate to him and the Holy Meal” or the Halloween Masses where the priest is dressed up in a Halloween costume, or the Masses where Father is acting more like Jay Leno on the Tonight Show rather than acting in “persona Christi” at the altar? I could go on and on

If people come to Mass and see their priest dressed as a clown, in a Halloween costume or telling constant jokes during the Mass, what are they to think about the Mass? There is consequently a lessening of the understanding of what the Mass is and so the faith of the people is weakened. Remember the axiom—lex orandi, lex credendi—how we pray, shows what we believe?

But there is an even more insidious effect on the faith of the people in the Eucharist stemming from the changes enacted by the American Bishops’ conference which tolerated illicit liturgical abuses such as communion-in-the-hand, female altar servers, and then proceeded to legislate them into law!

Recently the American Bishops issued a pastoral letter defining Catholic teaching concerning the Real and True Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, responding to ignorance and or unbelief in the Real Presence.

Over the past thirty years or so we have witnessed going from gold chalices to hold the Precious Blood of Christ to glasses and pottery cups; from the gold ciborium that holds the consecrated Hosts to bread baskets and dishes; from kneeling to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion—a gesture no one could mistake for anything but an act of faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, to standing to receive Holy Communion; from being fed the Holy Eucharist on one’s tongue —a definite and definitive action showing plainly that this is no ordinary food but the Bread of Angels, to receiving Holy Communion in one’s hands you would take food off a table or a snack of potato chips; from receiving Holy Communion



from the hands of the priest ordained to feed and nourish his family, to being handed the Eucharist from “Joe the butcher” from down the street and from Sue my neighbor with whom I was just gossiping over the telephone yesterday; from the Blessed Sacrament being reserved on the altar in the center of our churches to the tabernacle being placed on a pedestal as if it were just another religious statue.



Why are the bishops surprised and shocked that so many American Catholics do not know and believe the teaching of Christ regarding the Most Blessed Sacrament? Why do the American bishops act so puzzled and alarmed that recent polls show over 50% of American Catholics are ignorant of or do not believe the Church’s teaching that the Eucharist is the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and not just a symbol of Jesus? When it is they who have presided over, authorized and promoted so many of these changes pertaining to the manner of reception of Holy Communion and the reservation of the Eucharist in our Catholic Churches.

What is so desperately needed today is not a pastoral letter, not a “verba” but “facta.” The old Latin axiom rings so true—“facta non verba.” “Deeds not words.”

Our people in the pews need to see the immediate restoration of all those sacred gestures and actions which say, “Yes, we believe the Holy Eucharist we receive is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” What we need today is to make the ORANDI correspond with the CREDENDI! We need to make what and how we pray around the Holy Eucharist correspond to what we believe about the Eucharist.

The American bishops need to reassemble the apparatus that for years has safeguarded the mysterious and clear truth of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The American bishops don’t need so much to publish a pastoral letter but they need to reaffirm by DEEDS the doctrine of the Real Presence, by reinstating all the gestures and actions which say by deeds, This is the Real and True Body and Blood of Christ I am receiving in Holy Communion.

- * “See, I kneel to receive my God!”
- * “See, I receive my Lord ON MY TONGUE for he is no ordinary food but God himself.”
- * “See, I look as I enter my parish church and I can find my Lord on the altar in the center in the tabernacle—he is the focus of my life. He is really Christ my Savior and Lord in the tabernacle.”

We’ve all heard the old expression, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” There is really no substitute for the Eucharistic piety expressed by our bodies, infused into our souls, known with the power of our minds, when one’s whole being bows in adoration to the Most Blessed Sacrament.

So, we ask the question—what can be done to repair so much damage caused by the dismantling of traditional Eucharistic piety? The American bishops need to reevaluate all that they have legislated in the past 30 years.

* Instead of proposing that standing should be the recognized posture for receiving Holy Communion in the United States, the American bishops should be saying we need to reaffirm the Catholic teaching of the Real Presence —FACTA—Kneeling for Holy Communion will now be the norm.

* FACTA—abolishing the option of receiving Communion in the hand which has become in practicality the only option since we have a generation or two of children who were never even told there was any



other option of receiving Holy Communion but in the hand.

* FACTA—The ordained Priest or deacons are the only ministers of Holy Communion unless in case of emergency.

All of the changes can be accomplished smoothly by a year long catechesis from the pulpit, Catholic newspapers and publications on the reasons necessitating these changes coupled with preaching from the pulpit what the true doctrine of the Church regarding the Eucharist is, thereby combining the FACTA with the Verba.

You see the Pastoral Letter of the American bishops is the Verba, we eagerly await the FACTA.

You see, the Pastoral Letter of the American bishops is the Credendi, we eagerly await the ORANDI.

Bottom Line: We probably wouldn't need a Pastoral Letter restating Catholic doctrine on the Real Presence if we were still kneeling for Holy Communion, receiving the Eucharist humbly on our tongues from the hands of the priest!

Reverend Anthony J. Manuppella is currently pastor of St. Peter's Church, Merchantville, New Jersey. Ordained in 1976 from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

If there is no solid Catholic doctrine, there should be no money

Please remember that PSA supports:

- Institutionalized Heresy (Institute for Pastoral Ministry)
- Abortion & contraception (Catholic Charities)
- Heresy (Diaconate Program)
- Heresy (Orange County Catholic Newspaper)

What to do:

- Pray that Father Tran aligns his thinking with that of the Church which has already spoken through the voice of the late John Paul II on this matter, “I declare that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgment is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful.” *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, May 22, 1994.
- Pray and ask Father Tran and our local extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion that they respect the directive from *Redemptionis Sacramentum* #102, “The chalice should not be ministered to lay members of Christ’s faithful.... where a notable part of the people continues to prefer not to approach the chalice for various reasons, so that the sign of unity would in some sense be negated.” Take notice that at St. Mary’s, not even 10% of parishioners approach the cup with the Precious Blood.
- Pray and ask Father Tran and our local extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion that they respect the directive from *Redemptionis Sacramentum* #151, “Only out of true necessity is there to be recourse to the assistance of extraordinary ministers in the celebration of the Liturgy.” Is there a necessity for the habitual use of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at a small church such as Saint Mary’s?
- Different movements throughout the Diocese, such as the Neocatechumenate movement, celebrate Mass in manners that can very well be argued are not legitimate or in accordance with the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM). We are not aware that Bishop Brown has ordered these movements to correct the way they celebrate Mass. Therefore, we should insist that our traditions be respected since it has been proven that they are not in contradiction with any of the instructions of the GIRM.
- During the distribution of Holy Communion, kneel so you can receive Our Lord in the truest form of reverence. With such action, you can contribute to the fostering of a spirit of reverence and to a defense against the spirit of the Protestant Reformer, Martin Bucer.
- Do not share the sign of peace so that you do not contribute to the distractions created by the pew hopping during a time when we should be in awe and in contemplative prayer for this most critical and important part of the Mass.
- Kneel after the Lamb of God so that with your body you can give honor and glory to the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”
- When you are told to obey a bishop who is not obeying the Magisterium on issues of morality and liturgy, you are not morally obligated to obey those or-

ders. The obedience to the Magisterium supersedes the obedience to the Bishop. Remember that because of disobedience from the American Bishops to the liturgical norms, indults were obtained from Rome to receive Communion standing, Communion in the hand, altar girls and female lectors among others.

- Write to and call Bishop Brown @ P.O. Box 14195, Orange, CA 92863 or @ 18152 Darmel Place, Santa Ana, CA 92705. Phone (714) 282-3000.
- Write and call Father Tran @ 321 Tenth Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. Phone (714) 536-6913
- Write a charitable complaint letter to the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments @ 00120 Vatican City, Italy.
- Write a complaint letter to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi @ 3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington, DC 20008-3687
- Please send us a copy of your letters for our records to MilitiaofOurLadyofGuadalupe@yahoo.com

Please contact us to add your name to this list!

If you are not a part of the solution, you are a part of the problem.

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| • Michael & Susan Teissere are related to former priest Rod Stephens. For information regarding the secret oath given to Michael and Susan arranged by Bishop Brown to hide the truth about the scandalous lifestyle of former priest Rod Stephens, call (562) 544-0505. A scandal against obedience and the consciences of Michael and Susan Teissere! | |

Contact us @ (714) 964-0150 or (714) 800-1905