



# "Real Presence"

"O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!"

Vol. 1, Issue 2

a publication of Apostles of the Real Presence  
Consecrated to Mary, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament

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## HOLY FATHER EXCLAIMS: "THE YEAR 2000 WILL BE INTENSELY EUCHARISTIC"

Pope John Paul II writes in *"Incarnationis Mysterium,"* "For 2,000 years, the church has been the cradle in which Mary places Jesus and entrusts Him to the *adoration and contemplation* of all peoples. May the humility of the Bride cause to shine forth still more brightly the *glory and power of the Eucharist*, which she celebrates and treasures in her heart."

At the beginning of his papacy, the Holy Father said *"Open, indeed, open wide the doors to Christ! Open to his saving power!"* And in his encyclical to the laity *"Christifidelis Laici,"* Pope John Paul II appeals to the laity to evangelize each other and go out into the parishes. The Holy Father has said that this is the age for Eucharistic Evangelization.

Throughout his pontificate, Pope John Paul II's words and actions have expressed his love for Jesus in the Eucharist. His writings, homilies, and apostolic letters reflect his dream as he envisions Catholics praying around the clock, adoring the Blessed Sacrament and feeling the great power of Perpetual Adoration.

In *"Redemptoris Homini,"* the Pope states that our essential commitment in life is to preserve and advance constantly in Eucharistic life and piety, and to grow spiritually in the climate of the Eucharist.

The Holy Father acted upon petitions from around the world for perpetual eucharistic adoration and began perpetual adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on December 2, 1981.

Under the Pope, the new Code of Canon Law was promulgated in 1983, authorizing the continued observation of Corpus Christi processions and required that throughout the year churches be open at least part of the day to facilitate the Eucharistic adoration of the faithful.

And in his encyclical on the Third Millennium, *"Tertio Millennio Adveniente,"* the Holy Father writes *"The Year 2000 will be intensely Eucharistic: in the Sacrament of the Eucharist the Savior, who took flesh in Mary's womb twenty centuries ago, contin-*

*ues to offer Himself to humanity as the source of Divine Life."*

We truly have been blessed with such a holy, spiritual and eucharistic pontiff in Pope John Paul II. Let us always pray for our wonderful Holy Father, for his continued strength as he leads us into the Third Millennium.

With the Jubilee upon us, let us heed our dear Holy Father's words: "Do not be afraid ... evangelize each other ... Open wide the doors to Christ! ..., Let our adoration never cease." As we focus on Jesus' Eucharistic reign in the Third Millennium, believe in His promise "Know that I am with you always, ... , I am the Bread of Life," and so "Come let us adore Him, Jesus, our King."



## 32 U.S. Cardinals and Bishops Voice Criticism on Current Draft of "Domus Dei" ("House of God")— Call for Eucharistic Renewal in Jubilee Year



*U.S. Bishops Acknowledge Many Liturgical Changes of Postconciliar Period Have Damaged Faith of Catholic People*

Proposed document *"Domus Dei,"* written by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy ("BCL"), which dealt with art and architecture of Catholic churches, brought negative reactions at the U.S. bishops' annual meeting in Washington, D.C. held November 15th-18th.

"The bishops were concerned that the tabernacle no longer has a prominent place in the church," said Fall River, MA. Bishop Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap.

Boston's Bernard Cardinal Law led the critique, suggesting that the tabernacle should be placed front and center of churches which is "much more pastorally acceptable . . . , the notion of a separate chapel is unrealistic."

See

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*"Just as the sun is the source of all energy and warmth, so is the Blessed Sacrament the source of all grace and love."*

The goal of this newsletter and our Apostolate, Apostles of the Real Presence, is to make Jesus Christ Known, Loved, and Adored in the Blessed Sacrament.

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Website: <http://users.ids.net/~realpresence>

## ***U.S. Bishops Criticize "Domus Dei"—Call for Eucharistic Renewal in Jubilee Year***

One bishop after another, 32 in all, including 3 cardinals, acknowledged how liturgical changes and mandates of the past 30 years have weakened, damaged, or destroyed the faith of the Catholic people.

Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark, N.J., stated "I've always had concern over the location of the tabernacle"... "If the Blessed Sacrament is nowhere to be seen, our Catholic people are missing something very important in our theology and spirituality..." Continuing, Archbishop McCarrick stated "that the tabernacle be placed in a place that is prominent and conspicuous."

Washington, D.C., Auxiliary Bishop William Lori wondered why the document "*Domus Dei*" made no reference to the sanctifying power of the cross and suggested that the document convey a "less functional" view of a church building but that it should stress that the church should be a "preview of the heavenly city."

Supporting comments made by Cardinal Law and Archbishop McCarrick, Kansas City's Archbishop James Keleher said "In our archdiocese, we never build a church where the tabernacle is not visible in the front."

Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger of Evansville, Ind., stated that contemporary Catholics do not share the pious practices of his generation. Bishop Gettelfinger also indicated his preference for building chapels accessible to the faithful 24 hours a day "so people can worship the Eucharist."

After Chicago's Francis Cardinal George spoke in support of the document's exposition on accessibility for the handicapped, Bishop Thomas Daily of Brooklyn seconded his comments.

St. Louis Archbishop Justin Rigali stated that "the tabernacle has been relegated to places that are neither prominent nor beautifully decorated."

Reminding the bishops that "we have all experienced a lessening of devotion to the Eucharist, a loss of the sense of the Real Presence; the sense of the sacred has suffered," commented Archbishop Michael Sheehan of Santa Fe, and, he continued "I can't help believing that placing the Eucharist in a separate chapel, often hidden and often small, is part of the reason we have a crisis in belief in the Real Presence. . . . Out of sight, out of mind is what has happened."

Questioning why the BCL adopted the "recent development" that Christ is present in the assembly just as much as He is in the Blessed Sacrament, Archbishop Elden Curtiss of Omaha continued: "It's misleading to say all forms of Christ's presence are equal and all should have prominence of place. The prominent place is the altar and tabernacle. . . the emphasis on the assembly is taking away from the eucharistic Species."

Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua of Philadelphia echoed the call for proper placement of the tabernacle and he focused his comments on the modernist liturgists' obsession on "gathering place."

Bishop David Foley of Birmingham, noting that the document provided no teaching on the Catholic doctrine on the Eucharist, stated "The Mass is a holy sacrifice as well as the assembly of the people,.... It would be helpful to architects if we placed before them a document that contained the

teaching of the Catechism."

Agreeing with all previous speakers who spoke on placing the tabernacle front and center, James Cardinal Hickey of Washington, D.C. said "It reinforces our belief in the Eucharist and the Real Presence, as it is greeted, genuflected before, and as it helps keep prayerful silence in a church." Continuing, he said, "it is important to foster eucharistic devotions and benedictions, but also we should not overlook private visits.

Bishop Robert Banks of Green Bay asked why placement of saints in the sanctuary is discouraged in the document, why the saints have been "banished."

Essentially, the bishops and cardinals used their discussion time to voice displeasure over the past 30 years of tabernacles being removed from the front and center position of the church, visible to all who enter the church, and placed in side chapels.

By far the most outspoken bishop at the conference who commented about the changes in this postconciliar period was Bishop Sean O'Malley of Fall River, MA. who said: "All of us have heard our people say, "This place does not look like a church." Bishop O'Malley felt that a sequence of actions have led to a de-emphasis on the importance of the Eucharist. These included eliminating the midnight fast before receiving Communion; removal of Communion railings; and the lack of genuflection before the Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop O'Malley stated further that "The documents on liturgy ask for continuity, yet the liturgy changes of the past 30 years have come fast and furious. Communion, fasting, genuflecting: changing all these signs is changing people's minds. All of these changes have changed people's mind about the Eucharist. . . . I hope in this Jubilee Year, we can renew our people's devotion in the Eucharist and the Sacrifice of the Mass."

Bishop O'Malley added "... I feel confident that the new document, when it comes out, will stress the prominence the tabernacle should have in our church architecture."

(Excerpts for this article were taken from "The Wanderer," Dec. 2, 99 and "the Anchor," Fall River, MASS., Nov. 26, 99)

### AN ACT OF FAITH IN THE REAL PRESENCE

Lord, Jesus Christ, I believe you are as truly present in this holy sacrament, under the signs of bread and wine, as you were when dying upon a cross for the salvation of all mankind, or as you are now enthroned in glory in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

You said that you would give us yourself as the bread of life, which if we eat, we shall live forever. I believe this truth because you are truth itself. With confidence in your loving forgiveness therefore, I approach your altar, conscious that my unworthiness to receive you is outweighed by your desire to be united with my soul. You desire to nourish it on its earthly pilgrimage, until the day when I shall be with you in the eternal banquet, to feed on the unveiled beauty of your presence forever.

# EARLY CHURCH FATHERS, THE REAL PRESENCE AND A MIRACLE

## ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

"I have no taste for the food that perishes nor for the pleasures of this life. I want the Bread of God which is the Flesh of Christ, who was the seed of David; and for drink I desire His Blood which is love that cannot be destroyed."

- "Letter to the Romans", paragraph 7, circa 80-110 A.D.

A disciple of Apostle John, St. Ignatius wrote around A.D. 106 that "the Eucharist is the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins and which the Father in His goodness raised" (Epistle to the Smyrneans 6:2).



## ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

St. Cyril served as Bishop of Jerusalem in the years 348-378 A.D.: "Keep these traditions inviolate, and preserve yourselves from offenses. Do not cut yourselves off from Communion, do not deprive yourselves, through the pollution of sins, of these Holy and Spiritual Mysteries."

- "Mystagogic Catechesis [23 (Mystagogic 5), 23]"

## ST. IRENAEUS OF LYONS

St. Irenaeus succeeded St. Pothinus to become the second bishop of Lyons in 177 A.D. Earlier in his life he studied under St. Polycarp. Considered, one of the greatest theologians of the 2nd century, St. Irenaeus is best known for refuting the Gnostic heresies.

"[Christ] has declared the cup, a part of creation, to be his own Blood, from which he causes our blood to flow; and the bread, a part of creation, he has established as his own Body, from which he gives increase to our bodies."

Source: St. Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies, 180 A.D.



## THE REAL PRESENCE = JESUS CHRIST, BODY, BLOOD, SOUL AND DIVINITY IN THE BLESSED

***"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; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."*** (John 6:53-56)

"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."

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church: paragraph 1378

## EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLES

The first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church took place in Lanciano, Italy, in the 8th Century, A.D. in the little Church of St. Legontian. As a response to a Basilian monk's doubt about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist, during Holy Mass, the host changed into live Flesh and the wine was changed into live Blood.

Various investigations were conducted since 1574. In 1970-1971 and again in 1981, scientific conclusions of the analyses of the consecrated Host were that the Flesh is real Flesh and the Blood is real Blood that belong to the human species.

The Blood is AB type, identical to that uncovered in the Holy Shroud of Turin, and the Flesh is a "Heart" complete in its essential structure = JESUS!



## From the desk of Jim Wasel ...

*With the Christmas season and the Jubilee Year 2000 upon us, surely most of us are eager to prepare our homes, making them tidy and spotless in anticipation of visits from family and friends. Likewise, during Advent, we need to make our souls clean and spotless so that when Jesus comes to us in the Holy Eucharist, He will find a pure and spotless soul, free from mortal sin. Let us vow to make more frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and continue that commitment throughout the coming Jubilee Year and always.*

*Why is this so important? So that we may receive Jesus worthily in the Holy Eucharist! In receiving Holy Communion worthily, Jesus unites with us so closely that we live in Him and He lives in us, and we receive sanctifying grace which gives life to our souls, protects us from mortal sin and makes us more pleasing to God. Just as our bodies need food in order to grow and keep healthy, so do our souls need the heavenly food of the Holy Eucharist.*

*The Church teaches that in order to receive Jesus worthily in Holy Communion, we must be free from all mortal sin. Any mortal sin must be confessed to a priest in Confession. In receiving Holy Communion knowing that we have unconfessed, mortal sins on our souls, we then commit a sacrilege (a sin in itself) and do not receive any spiritual benefits from receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. More seriously, we offend Him! We must always go to Confession as soon as we know that we have committed a mortal sin so that we will always receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist worthily.*

*May God bless you all and may Jesus give you His peace and love during Advent, Christmas, Jubilee Year 2000 and always. We thank all of you, our readers, and those who support this apostolate, Apostles of the Real Presence, in any way. May the Jubilee Year 2000 bring you many graces. Let us all continue to work together to bring about the Eucharistic reign of Jesus in the very special Jubilee Year 2000 so that all may come to know the true Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Come let us adore Him, Jesus, our King! Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!*

*-Jim Wasel*

For those who want to assist Apostles of the Real Presence in reaching souls with the good news of the Eucharist, **meetings** are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:45 p.m. at St. Bartholomew Church's Rectory Basement, following the 7:00 p.m. Novena in the Church. (Enter side door to the rectory, parking lot side.)

### Eucharistic Teaching Aids

Be sure to view our new website:  
<http://users.ids.net/~realpresence>

There you will find 12 concise teaching modules relative to the Church teachings about the Real Presence of Jesus, the significance of the Mass, developing a personal relationship with Jesus and the need for more frequent confession and much more. The aids are suitable for junior high and high school, CCD and Adult Education.

**(This newsletter may be copied for further distribution. We encourage you to do so that others may learn about the Catholic Faith as well. Thank you.**



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Come and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. On December 31, 1999, join us at St. Bartholomew's Church in Providence at 9 p.m.- Midnight for adoration, Mass follows. In addition, the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be present for veneration. What better way to ring in the Jubilee than in the presence of Jesus and Mary!

**May Jesus' peace be with you!**

### **"Real Presence" Newsletter** *Published seven times a year by* **Apostles of the Real Presence**

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*(This newsletter is sent without charge, however, donations are most welcomed.)*

### **WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Apostles of the Real Presence is a non-profit corporation which has existed for nearly two years. Operational funds for this apostolate have been supplied by the "Apostles" themselves and from free will offerings given at educational events. We are growing rapidly and could use your financial assistance. Below is a list of some of the items already purchased or that the apostolate will need in the near future. We appeal to you to consider a donation. Your donations may be for a specific item or as a general contribution. Thank you very much!

#### Items already purchased

Business Card stock	\$ 4.50
Electric Stapler	62.45
Saddle Stitcher Stapler	61.38
Cartridge staples	7.92
Monstrance pins, prayer cards (fundraiser items)	79.20
Newsletter Oct/Nov 99	211.00
3 Electric Staplers \$42.79 ea.=	128.37
Ink Jet Cartridge	32.00
Ink Jet paper	9.50
Laserjet paper	20.00
Current Legal Fees	470.00

#### Needed

Printing of educational materials	approx.	\$1000.00/yr
Toner Cartridges for HP Laserjet		110.00
Staples		17.45
Paper cutter		35.00
Printing costs for 7 newsletters/yr: (approx. 56,000 copies=)		3360.00

Checks may be made to Apostles of the Real Presence and mailed to: **Apostles of the Real Presence, c/o Jim Wasel, 71 Capuano Avenue, Cranston RI 02920.** We are not yet tax exempt, therefore, we regret that your donation is not tax deductible. However, we will apprise you when our tax exempt status is realized. **We thank you in advance for your consideration! God bless!**