



"Real Presence"

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

Vol. 2, Issue 1

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

Feb/Mar 2001

"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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lent—Time for Drawing Near to God.....	1
Eucharist—Strength for Lent.....	1
Early Church Fathers, The Real Presence.. A Miracle.....	2
"Apostles" News and Crossword.....	3

SUPPLEMENT

- Prefigurations of the Eucharist
- St. Tarcisius
- Lenten Regulations; Prayers
- "Jesus I Trust in You"

Website: www.ApostlesOfTheRealPresence.com

LENT—TIME FOR DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

Pope John Paul II, our Holy Father states that reconciliation "*reinserts man into the saving context of the covenant and opens him again to the Trinitarian life, which is a dialog of grace, a circuit of love, the gift and acceptance of the Holy Spirit.*" It is "*a drawing near to the holiness of God, a re-discovery of one's true identity which has been upset and disturbed by sin, a liberation in the very depth of self, and thus a re-gaining of lost joy, the joy of being saved, ... Reconciliatio et Paenitentia, n. 31, 111.*"

Most people may not look to Lent as a favorite time of year simply because of the inward examination we must make of ourselves.

A special time set aside to remember Jesus' forty days in the desert, Lent gives us a chance to truly reconcile ourselves with God. We make outward signs, such as prayer, almsgiving and fasting which all reflect an inward turning toward God and away from sin.

Jesus Christ died on the wood of the Cross on Calvary to wash away sins and to reconcile us to God the Father. Jesus said that we must take up our Cross and follow Him.

Our Holy Father calls for a "conversion of heart" and states that "God offers His Mercy to whoever is willing to accept it."



EUCHARIST—STRENGTH FOR THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

As you take your personal journey through the forty days this Lent, imitating Jesus' retreat to the desert, be mindful that receiving the Eucharist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will strengthen you.

In his best-selling book "*Crossing the Threshold of Hope*," Pope John Paul II em-

phasizes, among other things, a call to holiness and the Sacrifice of the Mass. He writes "At the heart of the Church is Christ and His Sacrifice, a Sacrifice celebrated in a certain sense on the altar of all creation, on the altar of the world. Around His redemptive sacrifice is gathered all creation, which is working out its eternal destiny in God. If this process causes pain, it is, however, full of hope."

We can be full of hope because Jesus "bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." (First Letter of Peter 2:24)

Before the healing, however, we must pass through Lent—a time to reflect on ourselves and seek reconciliation with our Lord in the Sacrament of Confession. Jesus is ready to for-

Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door." (John 10:7)

give us seventy told our first

And saving soul are pro-Holy Sacrifice which you receive Jesus in worthily, such sins, lessening punishment due to sins, protection from danger and disaster, and a shortened punishment of purgatory.

effects to the duced at each of the Mass assist and re- the Eucharist as pardon for

St. Peter Julian Eymard, the saint of the Blessed Sacrament, said "Know, O Christian, that the Mass is the holiest act of Religion. You cannot do anything to glorify God more nor profit your soul more than devoutly assisting at It and assisting as often as possible."

Walk this lent with Jesus in the Eucharist and be strengthened!



EARLY CHURCH FATHERS, THE REAL PRESENCE AND A MIRACLE

The Mass of all ages

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1345, it reads:

As early as the second century we have the witness of St. Justin Martyr for the basic lines of the order of the Eucharistic celebration. They have stayed the same until our own day for all the great liturgical families. St. Justin wrote to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161) around the year 155, explaining what Christians did:

On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read, as much as time permits. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things. Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves . . . and for all others, wherever they may

be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation. When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss.

Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren. He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts. When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgivings, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: 'Amen.'

When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the "eucharisted" bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent. [169] †



EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE

Most miracles about which we know occurred several hundred years ago. There is a modern day miracle, however, that occurred during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Betania, Venezuela on the feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1991. A Consecrated Host, truly the flesh of Our Lord, began to bleed. A medical team concluded that the material extruded from the Host was blood of human origin. The local bishop declared it a sign of transubstantiation, saying, "God is trying to manifest to us that our faith in the consecrated Host is authentic."

There have been many other extraordinary occurrences in Betania, including numerous alleged apparitions of the Blessed Mother witnessed by several thousand people, multiple physical and spiritual healings, and a mystic named Maria Esperanza who has the gifts of the stigmata, bilocation, and levitation during prayer. The bishop himself has witnessed phenomena and wrote in a pastoral letter that after careful study, he had declared the apparitions authentic and of a supernatural character.

Perhaps Our Lord and Blessed Mother are telling mankind that we need to place our trust in God and

work for His Kingdom for His glory. We have been redeemed by Christ's Blood. Let us always give glory to God. (*The Bridge to Heaven* by Drew J. Mariani and Michael H. Brown, Marion Communications Ltd.)



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

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of Christ Himself in the blessed Eucharist:

No. 1324. The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." [134] "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." [135]



PREFIGUREMENTS OF THE EUCHARIST IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

During Jesus' earthly three-year ministry, Jesus performed many miracles and taught in parables, revealing His Divinity slowly and only to those who would listen in faith.

As Jesus' last hours on earth unfolded, He instituted the Holy Eucharist during the Jewish Passover, which we call The Last Supper. Jesus also ordained the apostles His priests and bishops, with Peter, the leader, as His first pope.

Contrasted with Jesus' ministerial style of teaching, during the Last Supper, Jesus instituted a new covenant, elevating the bread and wine of Passover to a life-giving sacrament for everyone.

Blessing and breaking the bread, Jesus said "Take this and eat it . . . This is My Body" . . . and taking the cup of wine, giving thanks, Jesus gave it to them saying "This is My Blood, the Blood of the new covenant to be poured out on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus did not give an explanation to those who walked away, believing these words too literal and horrific. In the Jewish tradition, blood meant life and one did not drink blood.

All twelve apostles were familiar with the Old Testament prophecies of a Savior who would be linked to the Passover. The Jews knew that the Messiah would be born in "the house of bread," translated in Hebrew meaning "Bethlehem."

When Jesus fed the thousands through the duplication of the loaves of bread and fish, we are reminded of His Real Presence in the Eucharist, which is endlessly distributed each day at each Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After this miracle, every little scrap of bread was collected and placed in the baskets. In comparison, we read the teachings of the Catholic Church on the sacredness of the Eucharist.

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples recognized Jesus in "the breaking of the bread." Moses fed the Hebrew people manna, or a bread-like food which sustained them for forty years in the desert.

Saint Elijah, fleeing from the wicked Queen Jezebel, pleaded with God to take away his soul. Instead, God fed his soul and sent an angel to feed him bread, which the Early Church Fathers say was a prefigurement of the

Eucharist. Gaining such strength from this bread, Saint Elijah was able to walk for forty days.

And finally, Jesus said "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." (Jn. 6:51)



ST. TARCISIUS— DEFENDER OF THE EUCHARIST

On a tombstone in the catacombs of St. Callistus in Rome, there stands the inscription "he preferred to be massacred rather than surrender the sacred Body to mad dogs." This person was Tarcisus. Beyond his name, little is known of his life. He might well have been a young deacon, as Pope Damasus, in the fourth century, wrote in the poem which today serves as Tarcisus' epitaph.

Comparing the martyred Tarcisus to St. Stephen, who also died violently at the hands of a mob, Pope Damasus said "[he] chose rather to suffer death" than to "betray the secret." What is this secret which Pope Damasus wrote about? The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist!

One day, Tarcisus attempted to bring the Eucharist to Christians awaiting their martyrdom. Rather than let his Lord be handed over to a mob of furious pagans, Tarcisus tried to save the Eucharist from profanation at his persecutor's hands and lost his life in doing so.

Regardless of the times in which we live, Catholic Christians should know that the Blessed Sacrament—which is Christ really present—warrants the greatest love, veneration, and protection against defamation.

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE
IN OUR HEARTS, IN OUR FAMILIES
AND IN OUR WORLD!



"JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU"

From the diary of a young Polish nun, Blessed Sister Faustina Kowalska, a special devotion to the mercy of God has been spreading throughout the world. Is this message new? No, just a reminder of what the Church has been teaching throughout the ages, that God is merciful and forgiving and that we must in turn show mercy and forgiveness to our neighbor.

In the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus however, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone, especially the greatest sinner. Our Lord said to Blessed Faustina, . . . "On the cross, the Fountain of My mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls - no one have I excluded! (Bl. Faustina's Diary "Divine Mercy in my Soul" ("Diary") ¶ 1182) . . . I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy (Diary ¶ 327). . . . The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is - trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive" (Diary ¶ 1578). But there is more to trust than just believing that God is trustworthy. We have to act upon that belief. Trust involves a turning back to God. A real conversion of our whole lives to God, repenting of our sins and forgiving others. Trust is a living faith.

Jesus said to Blessed Faustina, "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. . . . The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy" (Diary ¶ 699).

Divine Mercy Sunday is April 22nd this year. A nine-day novena of Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday. Information about the Divine Mercy

Devotion may be obtained by calling the Association of Marian Helpers at: 1-800-462-7426. This apostolate can supply you with the novena prayer and other Divine Mercy pamphlets.



LENTEN REGULATIONS

The Church has suggested three primary ways to practice the 40 days of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving, as Jesus taught us. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics age 14 and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and on all of the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59, taking one full meal and two smaller meals, if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. †

LENTEN PRAYER

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the change

A HOLY HOUR WITH JESUS

In his encyclical "*Redemptor Hominis*" (Redeemer of Man), Pope John Paul II called upon the whole People of God to make Jesus loved in the Blessed Sacrament and to make the Eucharist the very center of each parish through adoration. He says "Your faith will help you to realize, that is Jesus Himself present in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for you and calling you to spend one special specific hour with Him each week."

By spending one hour each week with Jesus, your sacrifice will help make reparation for the evils of the world and open the floodgates of God's merciful love upon all mankind. God will bless you, your family and the world for this sacrifice because God cannot be outdone in generosity. †

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Jon S. Foster

Vice-President

Lee Grossi

Secretary-Treasurer

Kathleen E. Foster

Webmaster

Ari T. Foster

BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Mancini

Linda Mancini

James Wasel

Barbara Wasel

Lee Grossi

Barbara Burgess

Margaret Cronin

Richard Santaniello

Diane Santaniello

Jon S. Foster

Kathleen E. Foster



SPIRITUAL ADVISORS

Most Rev. George H. Pearce

Rev. Msgr. John C. Allard

Rev. Joseph P. Heaney

Rev. Peter J. Andrews

Rev. Richard A. Donnelly

Rev. John D. Dreher

Rev. John A. Kiley

Rev. Anthony Mancini

Rev. Roger L. Marot

Rev. Joseph F. Pranzo

Rev. John F. Randall

Rev. James Ruggieri



“Real Presence”

Newsletter

Published five times a year by

Apostles of the Real Presence

P.O. Box 8260

Cranston RI 02920

(401) 943-4171

Website: www.ApostlesOfTheRealPresence.com

E-Mail: Info@ApostlesOfTheRealPresence.com

RealPresence.com

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

“APOSTLES” NEWS

Since the formation nearly three years ago of the lay apostolate, “*Apostles of the Real Presence*,” there have been many fruits, praise God!

We have received requests for information packets from across the country and the world—Maryland, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Chicago, California, Nebraska, Florida, Pennsylvania and from the country of Malta.

The most exciting news is that a group of 12 people from California have become a chapter of the “Apostles.” And many parishes in RI have utilized our services to begin or expand Adoration.

The three fundraisers held at St. Bartholomew Church (December 18-19, 1999), at St. Mark Church and at Sacred Heart Church in West Warwick on February 12-13, 2000, raised \$700. We thank all our supporters and especially, Pastors, Fr. Joseph Pranzo, Fr. Richard Donnelly, and Fr. Robert Giardina, and their parishioners for their generosity in allowing us at their parishes.

With just a little “mustard seed” of faith and work, God does wonders, praise the Lord! †



LENT’S DESERT BRINGS JOY OF EASTER

Through His Life and Death, Jesus Christ was obedient to the Father in order to bring us the message of the Good News, namely, love of God and love of neighbor. Since God the Father made us in His image, our life’s goal is to imitate the One He sent.

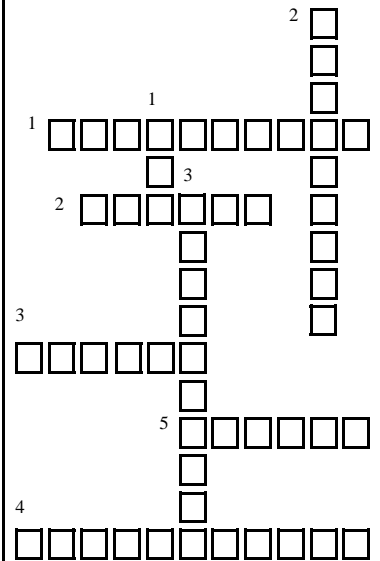
In Baptism, we are marked as one saved by Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit and in Confirmation, we are fully initiated into the Church community and empowered to serve the Kingdom of God boldly and have the commission to bring the Good News into the world as witnesses to Christ.

After the cleansing powers of Lent in the Sacrament of Confession, the spiritual rejuvenation of prayer, and the witnessing power of almsgiving, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice. Then God’s own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your own hearts and minds in Christ” (Phil 4:4, 7).

May Jesus be with you in your Lenten journey that will bring you the peace and joy of Jesus at Easter.



**“APOSTLES”
CROSSWORD**



Across

1. What we examine before going to confession
2. A sin that does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace
3. This saint is called the “priest of the Eucharist”
4. The rite of the Mass in which our venial sins are forgiven
5. A grievous sin which deprives the soul of sanctifying grace

Down

1. When Adam ate the apple, he committed the first ____
2. Young deacon who died to avoid profanation of the Eucharist
3. The means by which there is removal of some or all temporal punishment for sins

(Answers will be given in the next newsletter.)

(Created by Ari T. Foster) †



From the desk of Jim Wasel . . .

Recently, browsing in a local Catholic book store, I discovered some small red books, written by St. Peter Julian Eymard. Previously, I had never heard of this saint and was also very surprised that he is known as "the Priest of the Eucharist." St. Eymard is founder of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers and was canonized by Pope John XXIII on December 9, 1962. The St. Peter Julian Eymard Library consists of nine books, rich in Eucharistic spirituality and religious insight. I purchased St. Eymard's book entitled "The Real Presence," which is pure "poetry" and conveys the saint's love for the Eucharist, and his books have become my main reading source these days.

In his book, the "Divine Bridegroom of the Church," (pp 85 - 88) St. Eymard writes that the "... motive for the institution of the Eucharist is the love of Jesus Christ for His Church. ... Jesus coming down from heaven to found His Church, ... died for her on the Cross." St. Eymard explains that Jesus, after His Resurrection, was content to make His Church "the trustee of His truth and graces," thereby not leaving "a bride in mourning, weeping over the loss of her divine Bridegroom. This could not be. It would be unworthy of the power and love of the Savior. ... But by the side of her beloved, the bride is generous and strong; she is happy. His heart is hers, and it is a joy for her to devote herself to His service."

St. Eymard continues "Such is the church in the presence of the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the object of her love, the center of her heart, the joy and happiness of her life. ... The Eucharist is the motive and end of all her worship. It is the soul of it. Take away the Eucharist, and her worship ceases; for it has no longer any reason to be. ... The Eucharist is the means through which the Church forms Jesus Christ in her children. The Eucharist is the living Bread with which she sustains their supernatural life. She educates them through the Eucharist; for in the Eucharist alone do souls find abundance of light and life, and the strength to practice every virtue. ... The Eucharist is the glory of the Church. ... The reign of the Eucharist is the reign of the Church.† **- Jim**

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.)

"TO THOSE WHO HAVE HUNGER, GIVE BREAD. TO THOSE WHO HAVE BREAD, GIVE HUNGER FOR JUSTICE."
Latin American Table Prayer, Columban Fathers

NEEDED

Do you have a used folding machine in good condition that you would like to donate to this apostolate? It would have to accommodate 11"x17" paper, or larger. Or do you have one that we can use? Please call 943-4171 or write to us at: PO Box 8062, Cranston, RI 02920. Thank you! †

FULTON J. SHEEN

"Our Lord does not suffer alone on the Cross; He suffers with us. That is why He united the sacrifice of the thief with His own."

"Our Lord finished His work, but we have not finished ours. He pointed the way we must follow. He laid down the Cross at the finish, but we must take it up. He finished Redemption in His physical Body, but we have not yet applied it to our souls."

"(Mary was) called to be not only the mother of God, but also the Mother of men, not only the Mother of holiness, but also the Mother of those who ask to be holy."

**(Excerpts from *Calvary and the Mass*,
Fulton J. Sheen, 1936)**

Eucharistic Teaching Aids

Be sure to view our new website: www.ApostlesOfTheRealPresence.com

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 this so that others may learn about the Catholic Faith as well. Thank you.) †

UPCOMING EVENTS

Members of this apostolate spoke during the homily at all weekend Masses at St. Cecilia Church in Pawtucket on February 3, 4, 17 and 18, promoting Eucharistic Adoration.

And on March 17, 2001, we will again display our educational materials in the exhibit room at Bryant College in Smithfield for the 34th Annual Religious Education Workshop, sponsored by the Diocese of Providence. Come see us. †

Prayer Before the Blessed Sacrament

Lord, Jesus, as I kneel before Your hidden presence, help me respond to Your graces so that I may be as really present to You, as You are to me, in the most Blessed Sacrament of Your love and mercy. Allow your radiant presence to re-ignite the fire of Your Spirit within me, so that I may be Your Sacrament of love and mercy and all. Amen. †

***Hope for the Journey,*
Fr. Jack Spaulding
(Queenship Publishing Co.
Santa Barbara CA)**