

Last week we saw that the Lord, by His own divine power, fed thousands of people through a great miracle. We say in the Nicene Creed that Jesus is “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father.” Accepting Christ’s real and full divinity is essential, all the teachings of the Catholic Church flow from this truth.

That’s why the Lord told the people in today’s Gospel: “***This is the work of God, to believe in the one He sent.***” The Son of God can and should be trusted. “***I am the Bread of Life. My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink....***” The words of consecration also carry this same meaning “***this is My body...this is My blood.***” Jesus is truly the Son of God giving life to all who believe in Him and calls us to literally receive his Real Presence in the Eucharist. This has always been the faith of the Church from the beginning.

St. Ignatius of Antioch warned Christians in Smyrna around the year 106 A.D. to distance themselves from people who: “*abstain from the Eucharist..., because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, Flesh which suffered for our sins and which the Father, in His goodness, raised up again.*”

St. Justin Martyr in the year 150 A.D. wrote a defense of Christians to the Roman emperor which included an account of the Mass:

*“We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of His own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.”*

These are just some of the many sources that show that we have the same faith now as the early Church had. The Lord’s testimony and the Church’s testimony is often accompanied by great signs to increase our faith. The Lord miraculously fed thousands before teaching them about the Eucharist. There are miracles that still occur today. I would briefly call your attention to a more recent Eucharistic miracle that occurred while Pope Francis was a bishop in Argentina...he himself requested the investigation with amazing results.

On August 18<sup>th</sup> 1996 a priest in Argentina, Fr. Pezet was celebrating Mass and after giving out Communion a woman told him that there was a host on the ground and had become soiled or dirty enough that the priest put it in water and in the tabernacle so that it would naturally dissolve and Christ’s presence would be gone. To his surprise eight days later the host had become a red, bloody substance. After three years the then Bishop Bergoglio asked Dr. Richard Castanon, who was an atheist at the time, to have the host analyzed, which he did in a lab in the United States.

Because the Host no longer appeared to be a host but had changed to look like flesh, the U.S. lab was not told where it came from. One scientist, Dr. Frederic Zugibe, a cardiologist and forensic pathologist, determined that the substance was real flesh and contained human DNA, and he concluded was a piece of heart muscle. Furthermore, the doctor was amazed because the heart muscle was still alive and came from a man who had been tortured.

Further DNA tests on the sample showed it to be that of a male, AB positive blood type. What is extraordinary about this fact is that the DNA is the exact same match as another Eucharist 'miracle' that took place in the 8th century in Lanciano, Italy confirming that both samples came from the same person. Any person can learn more about these miracles!

The Lord is still working miracles so that we’ll believe His words and trust that He’s truly giving us Himself in the Holy Eucharist.

***“I am the bread of life says the Lord; whoever comes to Me will never hunger and whoever believes in Me will never thirst.”***

God Bless,

Fr. Mike