

# NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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Welcome to this special section of the bulletin dedicated to the National Eucharistic Revival! As our parish continues to observe the second phase of this historic event, we are pleased to provide this dedicated space to weekly information on matters pertaining to the Revival. In addition to announcements regarding special activities and events, this section provides a regular listing of resources, catechesis and directives which are intended to help foster a deeper devotion and a greater understanding of the Holy Eucharist. We invite you to look over this section each week for new and updated content and we pray that as you do so, you will grow in your appreciation and love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.



**The First National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years  
July 17-21, 2023 | Indianapolis, Indiana**

This is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Metuchen has been promoting this event for the past year partnering with Corporate Travel Service to create travel packages for the parishioners in the diocese. At this time, there are still an ample number of passes. However, accommodations and transportation will not be available through the diocese. Attendees will need to independently make their own arrangements. If you or someone you know would like to attend the NEC this summer, we ask that you please register as soon as possible. Please contact Adam Carlisle ([acarlisle@diometuchen.org](mailto:acarlisle@diometuchen.org)) in the Office of Evangelization & Communication in the Diocese of Metuchen.

## OFFICIAL PRAYERS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

O SACRED BANQUET, in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

MY GOD, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

O MOST HOLY TRINITY, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

## EUCHARISTIC GUARDIANS

We are always in need of more Eucharistic Guardians.



Eucharistic Guardians dedicate themselves to an hour of silent prayer each week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They make Perpetual Adoration possible by assuring that Jesus is never left alone. For more information or to sign up, please call the Parish Office or Gerry Aboyme at 732-266-4145.

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## PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Our parish offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7 in our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel located in the Parish Center. We are very blessed to be the only parish in the Diocese of Metuchen to offer Perpetual Adoration. We welcome and encourage you to regularly visit our chapel and to invite others as well.

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## EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL Pilgrimage Passport

June 2023 – June 2024



The children in the religious education program here at Our Lady of Fatima Church are engaging in the Year of Eucharistic Revival by making a pilgrimage to various chapels, shrines and holy sites within the surrounding area to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. They have each received a little "passport" to take with them and to get stamped as they complete their visit to each site. If you would like to participate in this spiritual pilgrimage as well, pick up a passport at the main entrance to the church. We hope many children will partake in this wonderful experience visiting Jesus! Additional information can be found on our parish website [www.olfparish.org](http://www.olfparish.org).

**"When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy, that you can receive Holy Communion often! It's our life and support in this life - Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself." – St. Peter Julian Eymard**

## The Solemnity of Corpus Christi

The Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated in the Catholic Church on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or, in some places, it is transferred to the Sunday. The feast was instituted to honour the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

### The Vision of St Juliana of Cornillon

St Juliana had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament from her youth and longed for a special feast to celebrate devotion to Our Lord's Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. The saint had a vision of the Church under the appearance of a full moon which had one dark spot. During the vision, she heard a mysterious, heavenly voice explain that the moon represented the Church at that time, and the dark spot symbolized the fact that a great feast in honour of the Blessed Sacrament was missing from the liturgical calendar. St Juliana confessed the vision to Bishop Robert de Thorete, then Bishop of Liège, and Jacques Pantaléon, who later became Pope Urban IV. Bishop Robert was favorably impressed, and called a synod in 1246 which authorized the celebration of a feast dedicated to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament – Corpus Christi – to be held in the diocese in the following year.

### The Eucharistic Miracle at Bolsena

Fr Pietro da Praga had grown lukewarm in his love of the Eucharist and had doubts as to whether the Eucharist was the real Body and Blood of Our Lord. In 1263, whilst celebrating Holy Mass in the Church Santa Cristina in Bolsena, at the breaking of the Bread, the precious Blood of Our Lord flowed from the Host, covering the altar cloth, corporal and the floor. Pope Urban IV, who was residing at Orvieto at the time, ordered that the precious cloth, covered with the precious blood, was to be brought to the Church of St Mary in Orvieto where it is still venerated even today.

### Proclamation of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

On the 11 August 1264, Pope Urban IV published the Bull "*Transiturus de hoc mundo*", in which, after having extolled the love of Our Savior as expressed in the Holy Eucharist, he ordered the annual celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, in the universal Church. The bull also granted many indulgences to the faithful for the attendance at Mass and at the Office. To celebrate the feast St Thomas Aquinas wrote the very beautiful liturgy celebrated on the Solemnity.

"The Origins of the Feast of Corpus Christi." Missionaries of Divine Revelation. 25 May 2024. <https://www.mdrevelation.org/the-origins-of-the-feast-of-corpus-christi/>.

## Corpus Christi Customs

Different customs surrounded this feast dating back to the time of the Middle Ages. In most European countries mystery plays used to be performed after the procession in public squares or in churches. The Corpus Christi pageants were highly popular, especially in England, Germany, and Spain. Perhaps the most famous of them are the *Autos Sacramentales* (Plays of the Sacrament) by the Spanish priest and poet Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1681). They are still performed today on special occasions, such as centenary celebrations, Eucharistic congresses, and ecclesiastical jubilees.

By the seventeenth century, the Corpus Christi processions had developed unusual features which appealed to the mood of baroque piety and were highly favored in all European countries where processions could be held. Saint George and his dragon (in many places Saint Margaret, too), the main characters of the famous mystery pageant of medieval days, now appeared in the procession itself. In Bavaria, impersonations of demons ran along, expressing in vivid pantomime their fright and fear of the Blessed Sacrament.

All kinds of symbolic pictures and representations were carried (or walked) in the Corpus Christi processions of western and southern Germany: Moses with the brazen serpent; David and Goliath; the synagogue, symbolized by a withered tree from which hung a broken scepter; the Easter lamb, blood running from its open wound; the figure of Christ wrapped in burial linen and carried by angels dressed in black; the Sorrowful Virgin, followed by thirty mourning women and forty men who walked with outstretched arms, and others.

Especially favored was the attendance of children dressed as angels. Already in 1496, at the great children's procession in Florence, Savonarola had all of them appear in white or garbed as angels. This custom quickly spread all over Europe in the following centuries. At the Corpus Christi procession in Mainz in 1613 hundreds of children, impersonating the nine choirs of angels, marched before the Blessed Sacrament while many other "angels" strewed flowers in front of the Eucharistic Lord.

These manifestations of baroque piety were gradually restricted and most of them suppressed during the second half of the eighteenth century, not without some resistance and much complaining on the part of the population. In some cities even Lutherans protested against the suppression because, not having processions of their own, they had enjoyed watching these features of the Catholic pageant.

In Spain many figures of gigantic size and other figures with immense masks (*Gigantes y Cabezudos*), representing famous persons of the Old Testament, took part, and still do, in the procession. They perform traditional dances in the street, accompanied by the quaint strains of an ancient melody. In the churches of Spain groups of choirboys danced before the altar in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. The most famous of these Eucharistic dances, still practiced today, is performed on Corpus Christi and some other feast days in the Cathedral of Seville.

Francis X. Weiser, S.J. "Handbook of Christian Feasts and Customs." Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1958.

**"In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering."**

**– Pope Benedict XVI**

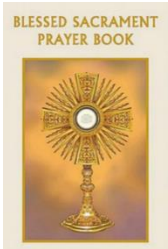
**"The Blessed Eucharist is the perfect Sacrament of the Lord's Passion, since It contains Christ Himself and his Passion." – St. Thomas Aquinas**

**RESOURCES**  
TO HELP FOSTER DEVOTION TO THE  
HOLY EUCHARIST

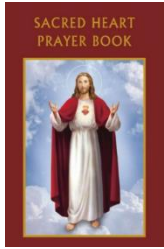
The following items are available at the Parish Center:

**7 Secrets of the Eucharist Book and Study Guide**

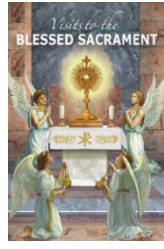
The 4-week parish workshop based on Vinny Flynn's book *7 Secrets of the Eucharist* recently concluded, and we have a limited supply of extra books and study guides available for sale at the parish center for \$10 each.



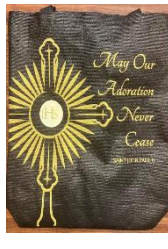
BLESSED SACRAMENT PRAYER BOOK - \$8.00



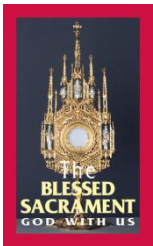
SACRED HEART PRAYER BOOK - \$8.00



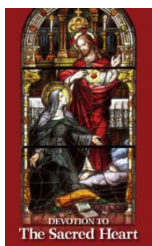
VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - \$8.00



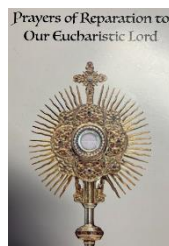
TOTE BAG - \$2.00



THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - God is With Us - \$5.00



DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART - \$5.00



PRAYERS OF REPARATION TO OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD - \$2.00



MONSTRANCE LAPEL PIN - \$2.00

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**RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN - *Pick of the Week***

**Children's Scapular with Brown Strings**



A Catholic tradition for hundreds of years, this handmade woolen scapular comes with a Jubilee Medal Cross of St. Benedict, the most highly-indulged medal in the Catholic Church. Woven with "IHS" (a monogram of the name of Jesus Christ)

on the front side. Smaller in size. Includes accompanying prayers.

This item may be purchased on AMAZON or on the Catholic Company website (<https://www.catholiccompany.com/childrens-scapular-with-brown-strings/>).

**"I encourage all of you to discover ever more fully in the Eucharist, the sacrament of Christ's sacrificial love, the inspiration and strength needed to work ever more generously for the spread of God's Kingdom and the growth of the civilization of love." – Pope Benedict XVI**

**Learn more about the Sacred Liturgy  
and the Holy Eucharist on  
FORMED**

*This week, we recommend the following Series:*

**The Fourth Cup  
by Dr. Scott Hahn**



Well-known Catholic theologian Dr. Scott Hahn explains Christ's Paschal Sacrifice on the cross as the fulfillment of the traditional fourth cup used in the celebration of the Jewish Passover meal. He draws a symbolic parallel to the Last Supper and Christ's death on Calvary. Through his scholarly insights and important biblical connections, Mass will come alive for you as never before!

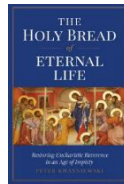
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**BOOKS ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

*Pick of the Week*

**The Holy Bread of Eternal Life**

**By Peter Kwasniewski**



Recent decades have been marred by pervasive Eucharistic abuse, from violations of liturgical norms and rubrics to practices that encourage irreverence and facilitate habitual sacrilege. The coronavirus crisis in 2020 has occasioned a further wave of sacramental manipulation, desecralization, and deprivation that has left almost no Catholic in the world unharmed.

These disturbing "signs of the times" call for an unsparing reassessment of official and unofficial policies, practices, customs, and attitudes, along with fresh appreciation for "creative minorities" that are taking a different, more difficult, and more successful path to reverence.

The Holy Bread of Eternal Life is a powerful and timely book by scholar Peter Kwasniewski that exalts the divine gift of the Blessed Sacrament, which can never be too much adored, too much loved, too much cared for, or too much sacrificed for.

Drawing on both Testaments, the Fathers of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, and the Magisterium, Kwasniewski describes the fitting veneration and handling of this "mystery of faith" past and present, the dispositions we need to cultivate for a fruitful reception of the Lord, and the blessings that follow from a life centered on Holy Communion. At the same time, the book critiques many novelties in modern Catholic worship and shows why they must be set aside for the health of souls and the Church.

There is far more at stake in today's debates concerning Holy Communion than what preferences should be indulged or slip-ups tolerated. At stake is whether we truly believe in Jesus Christ, our God, our Savior, our Friend, and our Judge, really present in the Eucharist; whether we acknowledge and accept His lordship over us in every aspect of what we do and say; and whether we will act, react, worship, and pray in a manner consistent with true belief.

This book is published by *Sophia Institute Press* and may be purchased at most religious book stores and on AMAZON.COM.

# EUCCHARISTIC MARTYRS

## LITTLE LI

### THE CHILD MARTYR OF THE EUCHARIST IN CHINA



There are several accounts of this little girl, later named Little Li. These accounts have various time frames and details surrounding her death. No matter how these narratives differ, this brave little girl showed a deep love and respect for Jesus Christ in the Eucharist that resulted in her paying the ultimate price, her life. Her story has touched the hearts of millions of Catholics throughout the world.

The story of this brave little girl, Li, brings us back to the early 1950's, to Communist China where God was not allowed to be mentioned and people who practiced their belief in Him were either imprisoned, tortured or killed by the ruling political class who were all communists. In May 1953, when Li made her First Communion, she had asked Jesus in her heart: "always give me that daily bread so that my soul can live and be healthy!" Since then Li received Holy Communion every day, but she was aware that the Communists who didn't believe in God could stop the Mass at any time. One day the police made a sweep of the village, and crammed all the inhabitants into the tiny Church. The Inspector ridiculed their beliefs and he told them they were tricked into believing that God is present in the tabernacle. The people watched with disbelief, as with a thundering voice, he ordered the soldiers to fire at the tabernacle. In front of all them, he grabbed the ciborium and threw all the Sacred Hosts onto the tile floor. Little Li froze in horror. Her innocent and righteous little heart bled for the Sacred Hosts strewn all over the ground. Before they left, the Communists locked the priest in the large coal bunker in the church, where a small opening helped him to see through to the sanctuary where the Hosts lay strewn on the floor. There was little the priest could do. However, feeling very upset at what had happened, there was still one thing he could do. He sank into prayers of atonement for the sacrileges committed against Jesus and suffered because he was not able to come to Jesus' defense. He prayed in anguish. "Stop this sacrilege! Lord Jesus!"

The next day, a little girl very silently came into the Church. Slowly, she made her way into the sanctuary and it was then that Father Luke saw her. He trembled: she could be killed at any moment! Unable to communicate with her, he could only watch and beg all the saints in Heaven to protect this child. He observed as she bowed for a moment and adored in silence, just as she had been taught to do in school. Little Li stayed with Jesus in adoration for one whole hour, knowing that she was supposed to prepare her heart before receiving Him. Her hands joined together, she whispered a prayer to her Jesus who was so mistreated and abandoned. Father Luke never took his eyes off the young girl, and he continued to observe her as she lowered herself down on her knees, bent over, and with her tongue, took up one of the Hosts. She then remained there on her knees, eyes closed and in deep joy at having her Heavenly Friend within her. Then the young girl, with a gentle spring in her step, left the Church quietly and unnoticed. Like on the first day, she repeated the same routine of spending one holy hour in adoration of her Friend Jesus. As before, she then took up one Host with her tongue and disappeared quietly. Father Luke, concerned for her safety, couldn't understand why she didn't take more than one. He knew exactly how many Hosts had been in the ciborium: there were thirty-two of them and surely she would be seen if she came in each of those days? But, Li didn't do that, as Sister had taught the children they could have only one Host per day and they were never to touch it except with the tongue. The little girl kept to all she had been taught because she knew just how precious the Host was: it was Jesus Himself really and truly present in it. Father Luke was relieved when the last day came around. Today, Little Li would consume the last Host – her special Friend. At daybreak, she entered the church as usual and drew near to the altar. She knelt to the ground to pray very close to Jesus in the Sacred Host. Father Luke had to stifle a cry when a soldier suddenly appeared at the church door and aimed his gun at her. A single shot was heard, followed by laughter. The child immediately collapsed. Father Luke thought she was dead, but no! Grief stricken, he watched her struggle to crawl over to where the Host was, and could hardly believe his eyes when, in obvious pain, she put her tongue over the Sacred Host to receive her Jesus for the last time. She then drew her last breath and died: a true martyr's death.

For a moment, the soldier simply looked as if trying to make sense of the terrible thing he just did. Then, he turned and rushed out of the church. The soldier returned and he released Father Luke and told him he was free to go. Fortunately, Father Luke just had enough time to give little Li a decent burial. As he left the cemetery and walked along the road, a man approached and invited him into his car. He dropped him off at the border. The priest escaped death and was now free and, that is the very reason we know about the story of this beautiful young Chinese girl martyr today. Little Li was dead, but not before she had ensured that Jesus would not be further desecrated. Though gone from this world, her memory still lives on in the countless millions of people worldwide.