

August 19, 2018 20th Sunday in ordinary time

When Mother Teresa passed away, God greeted her at the pearly gates. "You must be hungry Teresa," God said. "I could eat," Mother replied. So God opened a can of tuna and reached for a chunk of rye bread and they shared it. While eating this humble meal mother glanced down into hell and saw the inhabitants devouring huge steaks, lobsters, pheasants, pastries and fine wines. Curious but deeply trusting, Mother Teresa remained quiet. The next day God again invited Teresa for another meal. Again it was tuna and rye bread. And once again looking down Mother could see the denizens of hell enjoying caviar, champagne, lamb, truffles, chocolates of all kinds. Still she said nothing. The following day meal time arrived and God opened the can of tuna fish. Mother could contain herself no longer. Meekly she said, "God I am grateful to be in heaven with you as a reward for my pious and obedient life, but here in heaven all I get to eat is tuna and rye bread and in the other place (looking down) they eat like emperors and kings, forgive me oh God, I just don't understand." God sighed, "Let's be honest Teresa," he said. "It just doesn't pay to cook for two."

Let me tell you about a dream a priest friend of mine had. He was dreaming in the middle of the night when he was asleep and he was behind Mother Teresa going into heaven. As Mother Teresa got there God looked at her and said, "Teresa you could've done so much more." My priest friend woke up in a cold sweat because if Mother Teresa didn't do enough to get into heaven, where was he going to be.

We are in another section of the gospel of John chapter 6. We actually finish it next week when we get the reaction of the people and the explanation from Jesus. Now these people are shocked. The Jewish people believed that blood was sacred, it was life-giving, therefore it belonged only to God. And to eat it was a sacrilege, a tremendous sin. To have anything to do with blood, touch it, be involved with it was a serious sin. So, Jesus is saying, you need to throw all that out. You know, when people have kosher meat it has been drained of all blood. There is no such thing as rare, or medium rare, or pink meat in the Jewish world. It's all well done because you don't want the blood of any kind. So these people are being told something that has gone against their religion for the last couple thousand years, and they're saying, "What?" Because Jesus is not just saying "Eat", Jesus is saying, "Gnaw on my flesh." Once again the English translation is watered down and wimpy. "Gnaw on my flesh, slurp with gusto on my blood." "You must enjoy the blood you must enjoy the flesh." These people are thinking, cannibal. These people are thinking He's crazy, He's lost his mind. "How can He tell us to do this?" And not only that, He's saying it will make us live forever. How can that be? Because, we know where He came from. We heard that last week. We know where He came from, we know His parents, we know His brothers and sisters and cousins, all that. How can He tell us this? But, Jesus says it's the true food the real drink, it's the only thing that matters. And He says, "Unless you do this you can't have eternal life. Unlike everybody else who eats on this planet and dies, those who consume my body and blood will live forever." This is something totally against everything they've learned. It shocks them down to the very core of their being. They've never heard anything like this and they never will again. This is the only time in the history of the human race, somebody said this. And it's hard. It was hard for them and it's hard for people today because we don't see with our senses, we don't hear, feel, taste, smell any changes up here on the bread and the wine. It's with the eyes of faith that we have to do this. But yet, people still doubt. People still say, "Unless I can see it, unless I can taste unless I can smell it, I won't believe." The same people will believe things that scientists tell them. They believe when they go out in their car every morning and turn it on that it's going to work. These are the same people that trust everything else and yet they cannot have faith and trust in God. My brother flew up to see my parents yesterday, he hasn't

flown in years. He and I used to fly all over the place. He said, "Would you believe I'm nervous?" He said, "I can't trust those mechanics on the airplane, for some reason it's in my head." My fatherly advice, or I should say my brotherly fatherly advice. I just told him, "Breathe deep, you'll get there." So he sent me a text when he landed, "Praise the Lord we made it!" Okay, you still have to come home.

We put our faith and trust in other things and yet when Jesus tells us something, we ignore it. We say, "Oh no, no, that can't be Lord." The Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, all the branches that broke off said, no we can't believe this, this is too hard to stomach, Jesus was talking symbolically, it can't happen. Human beings are telling God what can and can't happen. This is a very horrible situation and we find it more true today than ever. And yet, Jesus continues to show us that what He's saying is true, what He said is all right.

There are hundreds of Eucharistic miracles around the world, all the way back, and they're still continuing today. The interesting thing about these miracles today is, we have tremendous instruments to examine these miracles. And what they're finding is astounding. In Buenos Aires in 1992, 1994 and 1996, the host began bleeding when consecrated and part of the host turned into human flesh. They examined the flesh, it was the left ventricle, the muscle that gives life to the whole heart and body. The tissue further revealed that belonged to a person who had gone through intense pain, excruciating extended periods where he could hardly breathe, had immense strain put on the heart. (All this can happen in crucifixion.) And it had been stabbed in the left side. Can you imagine? They can tell that from that piece of flesh. NCIS and CSI are correct after all. So they found something else, they found that this host was still bleeding. This tissue was still bleeding and the muscle fibers were still beating. This human tissue was still alive. The Archbishop who commissioned the study on this was Pope Francis.

Mexico 2006, at a parish retreat at a Mass, the host began oozing a red substance. The red substance was indeed blood and they determined the DNA. Think about this, we now have the DNA of Jesus on file. So whenever he comes down and does something, they can check it. But they also found out the blood was AB positive, the same type found on the shroud of Turin, and all the other Eucharistic miracles. The blood had coagulated and clotted on top, but underneath it was still bleeding, the muscle tissue was still living. Once again, heart tissue.

In India, 2001, the monstrance was put up for adoration, three red dots appeared. When the priest was able to bring the bishop back, it had turned into the face of Christ with the crown of thorns. It's still there today, it hasn't changed.

In Venezuela, 1991, the priest had just divided the priest's host into parts and consumed one of the pieces, the other piece had a red spot on it and a red substance was oozing out of the host. The host continues to produce that blood today. It was analyzed by 500 commissions of the world health organization. Non-Catholics, nothing to do with the Catholic Church. It was confirmed that the blood of the priest did not match that on the host, but that the blood came from inside the host. And matched that of other Eucharistic miracles, it was AB positive from a living beating heart.

Poland 2008, the host had a blood clot on it. Two independent scientists did two independent studies to ensure that there was no bias. They use the most modern microscopes available to mankind. Neither scientist was informed of the others study. Heart muscle, heart tissue, beating, bleeding. No way anyone could understand this, unless you have faith.

In these miracles and hundreds of others are still happening. Jesus is saying, "I am still here, this is Me!" In the precious body and the precious blood. Each host has the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus. Jesus said, "Eat my flesh, gnaw on my flesh." And that's what we're doing. When we come up here and received that little piece of Eucharist that looks like bread, we are receiving and eating the whole body of Christ. When I say, "The Body of Christ," it's the Body of Christ. And when you say, "Amen," you agree with it. And yet, study after study has been taken on Catholics and up to 70% of Catholics do not believe that it's the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus that they are receiving. They believe it's symbolic. And yet, Jesus shows us time and time again, "My heart is there, My heart is still beating." We are still receiving the true Jesus. There can be no doubt with all these things put together. And I think the reason we keep seeing the heart muscle and nothing else, is because the Sacred Heart wants our hearts to be with Him. When we receive Jesus we unite our hearts with His, inside. Our divine soul merges with His divinity for a few moments. But He wants us to know that this is true, He is there. For those 20 minutes or so when we have Him in there, He is united with us. But He truly wants, by these signs to let us know, "I want your heart to be with mine forever."

God bless you.