

MY BREAD OF LIFE (ANOTHER INSPIRATIONAL STORY OF THE EUCHARIST)

Holy Mass has always been the focal point of my life. At an early age, I was inspired by the splendour of attending Mass through the example of my mother and grandmother, who graciously allowed me to tag along with. Our home parish was Holy Trinity, a beautiful structure that reminded me of a cathedral because of its grandeur. Often, I would sneak away from my grandmother's house, which was near the church, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament. Although the building was huge, I always felt at peace when I knelt in the dim church, lit only by the votive lights, and spent time with my Lord.

My first Communion was the most momentous day of my life.

My excitement was probably enticed by the prospect of wearing a white dress and veil, and receiving a new prayer book and rosary, yet I can still recall the solemnity of the Mass like it was yesterday. Even now, I still get teary eyed as I hear the hymn:

"O Lord I am not worthy that Thou Should'st Come to me".

Many burdens during my lifetime have been made lighter through the gift of the Eucharist. I feel a special closeness to Jesus during the moments after I receive Holy Communion. That is when I spill out my love, joy and worries to Him. I sense that He really listens to me, and allows me to walk away trusting that although the problems won't always disappear, I am not alone in bearing them.

My faith is renewed each time I receive Holy Eucharist, and that faith instils trust and confidence in the Lord as I continue walking in my life's journey, which hasn't been easy.

My husband and I have dealt with job injustices and losses, economic problems and painful family misunderstandings. One particular crisis happened twenty-one years ago as my family returned home from Saturday evening Mass with two of our friend's children in tow. In the excitement of unloading the car of children and sleeping bags, our ten-year-old son decided that he would help by scooping the three-weeks old baby from his car seat. Before my husband or I realized what was happening, Billy had fallen with baby Gregory. Even though his head had been protected by his winter garb, we could immediately see that Greg had a displaced skull fracture.

The hours that followed were filled with tears, prayers, and anxiety. The next morning after the Sunday Masses were over, Father Phul, our parish priest and close friend, came to the hospital carrying with him the prayers and well wishes of our friends. He blessed Greg as he had done the evening before in the emergency room, and we continued to place our infant son in God's hands.

Greg was scheduled for surgery on Monday morning to repair a depressed skull fracture, but the neurosurgeon wanted a second CAT Scan done before he did the procedure. That evening, when the doctor received the results, he came to our hospital room with the wonderful news; the eggshell fracture was no longer depressed and Greg would need no surgery.

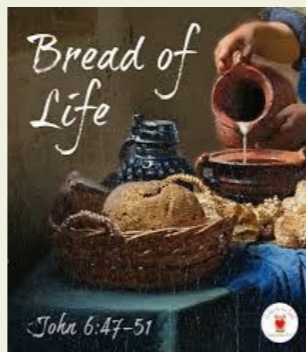
Our parish family and friends rejoiced with us as we gave praise and thanksgiving to Our Lord for interceding for our baby's healing. Today Greg is a junior at Ohio State University and we continue to give thanks for the gift he is to us.

As I celebrate my golden years, daily Mass continues to be a blessing in my life. I now have the joy of teaching my granddaughter to love the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. From the time she was an infant, I had the pleasure of helping my son and daughter in law to care for this lovely child.

Often I take Isabelle to Mass with me. We especially enjoy devotions every Monday during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a special time for Isabelle, who loves to show her stuffed animals to Jesus. When Isabelle was a babe in arms, she would reach out to the monstrance on the altar and giggle. I know Jesus was making her!

Our journey continues as we face job insecurity and financial stress, but my husband and I continue to find our strength in the beauty of the Mass. We believe in God's promise that through the grain of wheat that becomes bread, and the grape that becomes wine, He will continue to feed us with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the Holy Eucharist. He is always with us, and He will not forsake us. ...

Jeanne M. McCale - Vermilion, Ohio - Flor McCarthy, SDB.



Ta' Pinu Shrine Our Lady, Queen of the Family A CALL TO PRAYER



MESSAGE TO CHILDREN BY ST JOHN PAUL II

You are the favourites of Jesus: You are also my favourites!

"Let the Children come to Me!"; The Divine Master Said, "Do not hinder them! (k 18-16)

On the occasion of the festivity of Corpus Christi, on 14 June 1979, the Holy Father celebrated mass in St Peter's Square with over ten thousand children who had received First Communion in this period.

Beloved Boys and Girls!... You prepared for your First Communion with such commitment and diligence, and your first meeting with Jesus was a moment of intense emotion and deep happiness. Remember for ever this blessed day of First Communion! Remember for ever your fervour and your pure joy!

Jesus is present with us.—This is the first thought

Jesus rose again: He ascended to heaven: but He willed to remain with us and for us in every place on earth. The Eucharist is really a divine invention! Before dying on the Cross, offering His life to the Father as a sacrifice of adoration and love, Jesus instituted the Eucharist changing the bread and the wine into His own Person and giving the Apostles and their successors, The Bishops and Priests, the power of making Him present in Holy Mass. Jesus therefore, willed to remain with us for ever! Jesus willed to be closely united with us in the Holy Communion, to prove His Love to us directly and personally.

Each one can say: "Jesus loves me! I love Jesus."

St Therese of the Child Jesus recalling the day of her first Communion, wrote: "Oh, how sweet was the first kiss that Jesus gave my soul!... It was a kiss of love. I felt loved and I said in my turn: "I love You, I give myself to You for ever" Therese has disappeared like a drop of water lost in the ocean. There remained only Jesus: The master, the King" (Extract from St Therese, Story of a Soul). And she began to weep with joy and consolation, to others amazement.

Jesus is present in the Eucharist to be met, loved, received and consoled. Whenever there is the priest, Jesus is present because the mission and greatness of the priest is precisely the celebration of Holy Mass. Jesus is present in large cities and in small villages, in mountain churches and in the distant hut in Africa and Asia, in hospitals and prisons. Jesus in the Eucharist was even present in concentration camps!

Dear Children! Receive Jesus often! Abide in Him; let yourselves be transformed by Him!

Jesus is your greatest friend.— This is the second thought

Never forget it! Jesus wishes to be our closest friend, our companion along the way. You have certainly, so many friends but you cannot always be with them and they cannot help you, listen to you, console you.

Jesus on the contrary is the friend who never abandons you, Jesus knows you- one by one, personally. He knows your name. He follows you, accompanies you, walks with you everyday. He participates in your joys and consoles you in moments of grief and sadness. Jesus is the friend we cannot do without when we have met Him and understood that He loves us and wants our love. You can confide in Him, you can address Him with affection and confidence. Jesus even died on the Cross for our sake! Make a pact of friendship with Jesus and never break it! In all the situations of your life, turn to the Divine Friend, present in us with His "Grace", present with us and in us in the Eucharist.

Jesus is waiting for us.— This is the last thought

Life long or short is a journey towards Paradise, there is our fatherland, there is our real home: there is our appointment! Jesus is waiting for us in Paradise! Never forget this supreme and consoling truth. What is Holy Communion but an anticipation of Paradise? In fact, in the Eucharist it is Jesus Himself Who is waiting for us and Whom we will meet one day openly in Heaven. Receive Jesus often in order to never forget Paradise, to be always on the march towards the house of the Heavenly Father, to enjoy Paradise a little already! St Dominic Savio wrote in his resolution: "First I will confess very often and I will receive Communion whenever the confessor gives me permission. Second I wish to sanctify feast days. Thirdly my friends will be Jesus and Mary. Fourth death rather than sin"

Beloved Boys and Girls I conclude by saying to you :- *Keep yourselves worthy of Jesus Whom you receive!*

And to you parents and relatives, I say anxiously and confidently: *love your children, respect them, edify them! Be worthy of their innocence and of the mystery enclosed in their soul, they need love, delicacy, a good example, maturity! Do not neglect them! Do not betray them! I ENTRUST YOU ALL TO MARY MOST HOLY, OUR MOTHER IN HEAVEN, THE STAR OF THE SEA OF OUR LIFE. PRAY TO HER EVERY DAY, YOU CHILDREN! GIVE YOUR HANDS TO MARY MOST HOLY SO THAT SHE MAY LEAD YOU TO RECEIVE JESUS IN A HOLY WAY.* And let us also address a thought of affection and solidarity to all suffering children, to all boys and girls who cannot receive Jesus because they do not know him, to all parents who have tragically been deprived of their children or are disappointed and grieve in their expectations. In your meeting with Jesus, pray for everyone, command everyone, invoke grace and assistance for everyone! **And pray also for me, you who are my favourites!**



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AN EXTRACT FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

I believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God

The name "JESUS" means "God Saves". The child born of the Virgin Mary is called Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21): "there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

The title 'Christ' means "Anointed One" (Messiah) Jesus is the Christ, for "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. (Acts 10:38).

He was the one "who was to come" (Lk 9:19),

the object of "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:30) The title "Son of God" to unique and eternal relationship of Jesus Christ to God His Father: He is the only Son of the father (Jn 1:14.18; 3:16:18); HE IS God himself (Jn 1:1).

To be a Christian, one must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:327; Jn 1 2:23)

The title "Lord" indicates divine sovereignty. To confess or invoke Jesus as Lord is to believe in his divinity. No one can say "Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit (I Cor 12:3)

PERSEVERANCE IN PRAYER: Despite sins, temptations and falls, the soul who perseveres in prayer may rest assured that sooner or later God will deliver her from danger and lead her to the port of salvation.

St. Theresa of Avila..

THE GOSPEL REFLECTION OF THE MONTH:

"Shoulder my yoke and learn from me...Yes my yoke is easy and my burden light"

Those who went to Holy Mass last Wednesday, first Wednesday of July, have heard the story about Jesus, when he went to the country of the Gadarenes and freed two demoniacs from the devils, sent them into the pigs and the whole herd charged down the cliff and all perished into the lake. At this the whole town came to see what happened and instead of welcoming Jesus and thanked him for the miracle he did to help the demoniacs, they begged him to go away.

In Matthew 13:1-23, Jesus tells us how some people receive his teachings. He compares himself with a sower, who going out to sow, some seeds fall on the path, others on rock, others fall among thorns and some fall on rich land. Three quarters of the seeds die before they can produce any fruit.

It is the same with many of us. Many people listen to the word of God, or at least hear about it, but few are those who accept it and practice it.

Is it too much if one makes an effort to go to Mass at least on Sunday; is it too much if one abstains from gossiping about this or that person; is it too much if one controls his eyes, his hands and legs not to commit sin; is it too much if one abstains from drinking too much alcohol; is it too much if one doesn't try to crash a person whom perhaps he doesn't like, is it too much if one respects his parents the way he should, is it too much if a businessman doesn't rob a client with the excuse that that is business? Jesus invited us,

"Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart".

Jesus gave us the lesson and wants us to imitate him if we want that his message falls on rich soil 'that gives fruit and fruit in abundance'.

We must imitate Jesus not only in respecting the Father's Will like He himself had done, but also by avoid causing unnecessary offences, damage or worries to others and helping them to bear the worries they already have. This is the love of neighbour that draws us to love of God.

Jesus warned us, **"He who has ears let him hear"**. He who have ears and not hear, which means he who hears the **"Word of God"** and not practice it, would be betraying himself and jeopardising his eternal life. We hear a lot about our heavenly mother, how much she loves us and how good she is to us. We often ask her to 'hear our prayers and show herself as our mother'! But do we behave as her good children or hurt her with our actions towards God and neighbour?

At the beginning we talked about the Gadarenes. Jesus helped them, freed them from the devils that possessed the demoniacs, who were scaring all passers by the cemetery. But they preferred to chase Jesus from their town and live by that fear than accept God's graces. Let our attitude not be like that of the Gadarenes, but **shoulder Jesus' yoke and learn from him** who died for us on the Cross

to make us his brothers and sister and God's sons and daughters..

Liturgical Celebrations for July –August 2014

Date	July 2014 Celebrations
Sat 5th July	First Saturday—Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion at 2.00p.m Rosary, Confession followed by Holy Mass and Benediction
Sun 6 th & 20 th July	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory: closed due to refurbishment
Wed 2 nd July Then 9,16 ,23 & 30 th	9-13th of the 15 Wednesdays Devotion in preparation for the Assumption of Our Lady Rosary ,Confession and Holy Mass 11a.m
Sun 13th July	Our Lady of Good Health-Vailankanni at 1.45p.m Rosary, Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet – Healing Mass
Until Further Notice	Note: Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas will be held at St Brigid Church Fitzroy at 7.30p.m
Date	Major August 2014 Celebrations
Sunday 10th MAJOR CELEBRATION	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT H.L BISHOP HILTON DEAKIN Rosary- Procession, Holy Masss, & Benediction at 2.00p.m ***All Ethnic groups are requested to attend***
Friday 15th	DAY OF OBLIGATION ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT 11 A.M Rosary, Procession, Holy Mass and Benediction

"Let go of your plans. The first hour of your morning belongs to God. Tackle the day's work that he charges you with, and he will give you the power to accomplish it.
- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Cross of Christ
Written By St John Paul II
Hail, Cross of Christ!
Wherever your mark is found, Christ bears witness to his Easter Mystery – His passing from death to life.
He bears witness to love, to the inner power of a life born of love that overcomes death.
Hail, Cross of Christ!
Wherever you are raised up, on the battlefields, in the prison camps, on the roadsides, in all the places where people suffer and struggle with death.
In the places where they work, study and engage in creative activity.
In every place, in the heart of every man and every woman, every boy and every girl, and in every human heart.
Hail, Cross of Christ! AMEN.

Come ,Ejja and Celebrate with Jesus & Mary



"Ejja"- Our dearest Mother Mary called... "Come and celebrate with Me and my Beloved Son Jesus" ... You, my brothers and sisters braved the cold and the wind to answer Her Call... On the 22nd June, We gathered at the shrine, to celebrate a threefold Service, firstly the 131st anniversary, of Our Lady's Call ta' Carmela Grima, secondly to honour and adore the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, under the species of Bread and Wine, and thirdly to receive the Youth Cross for a few days in this Marian Centre.

So, **Thank You** to everyone who believed that it was their duty and obligation to be with us and our Mother Mary and a special Thank You to all those who participated in making this combined celebration a successful and enjoyable one.

It was call for information, for appreciation and for determination. It was a call for information, because by Our Lady's invitation to recite Three Hail Marys in honour of the three days Her Body remained in the tomb, before her Assumption into heaven, our heavenly Mother assures that after this life there is a heavenly life, at least for all those who serve God the way they should; Secondly we gathered to thank Our Lord and appreciate the special gift, given to us at his Last supper with the Apostles, His Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine, and to take advantage of such a precious gift for the nutriment of our spiritual life. These two special events deserve appreciation and cooperation from all of us, adults and senior citizens, who are preparing ourselves to meet our Lord in heaven.

Finally it was a Call to our Young People, to whom Saint John Paul II, the Saint who had great connection with our Shrines, both in Malta as well as with this Marian Centre, he donated this "Youth Cross", inviting them to carry It wherever they go under the protection of our Holy Mother and strengthen by the Holy Eucharist, To strengthen their faith by their good example and by spreading God's Good News., Therefore, through the intercession of our blessed mother Mary, during this Eucharistic celebration, We pray and hope that each and everyone of us to be given the grace, to fulfil well our obligations towards God and our neighbours.
Msgr Benedict Camilleri, Director

Help the Youth

By what a young man correct his Way? ...By observing Your words. (Ps 1:8:19) O Lord, inspire more to help young people to live worth-while lives.

