



- A RESOURCE FOR ONGOING FORMATION -

Part 2: A Life of Penance and Daily Conversion

Chapter 3. The Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

What happens to the bread and wine in the celebration of the Eucharist?

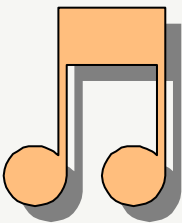
In the celebration of the Eucharist, when the presiding priest repeats the words of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit the bread and wine are consecrated, cease to be bread and wine and become the body and blood of Christ himself really present to us.

How is Christ present in the Eucharist?

Christ is present in the Eucharist in the hearts of those celebrating through grace, in the word of God that is proclaimed and preached and, sacramentally, as priest in the actions of his minister and as the food and drink that we share.

Herbert McCabe *The Teaching of the Catholic Church* 79, 84 (p 17)

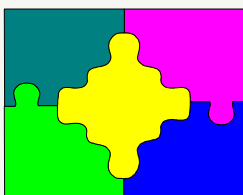
Secular Franciscans, therefore, should seek to encounter the living and active person of Christ...in liturgical activity. The faith of St Francis, who often said, 'I see nothing bodily of the Most High Son of god in this world except his most holy body and blood,' should be the inspiration and pattern of their Eucharistic life. Rule 5



Can music help us to appreciate the wonder of the Real Presence?

Why do you not recognise the truth and believe in the Son of God? See, daily he humbles himself as when he came from the royal throne into the womb of the Virgin; daily he comes to us in a humble form; daily he comes down from the bosom of the Father upon the altar in the hands of the priest. As he appeared to the holy apostles in true flesh, so now he reveals himself in the sacred bread...so, as we see bread and wine with bodily eyes, we too are to see and firmly believe them to be his most holy Body and Blood living and true. And in this way the Lord is always with his faithful...

Francis and Clare: the complete works (p 26-27)



Is the term 'transubstantiation' a puzzling or a helpful way of describing the Real Presence?



Scripture—

John 6. 32-35, 51-58

Jesus said to them, ' Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. ' They said to him, ' Sir, give us this bread always. '

Jesus said to them, ' I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

' I am the living bread that comes down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the world is my flesh. '

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ' H o w can this man give us his flesh to eat? ' So Jesus said to them, ' Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'