

The Gaze

A Reflection

Q. What do you see when you look upon the Face of JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist?

A. THE LAMB OF GOD THE WORD MADE FLESH

JESUS Christ is the Word of GOD, made flesh for the life of the world.

In the sacrament of the Eucharist the Word of GOD is once again made flesh and makes His dwelling among us; and, like the first disciples, we can touch Him with our own hands and look upon His glory.

He is the Word Who reveals the Father - so that by looking at JESUS we can see the Father. He is the same Word of the Father, through Whom and by Whom GOD created and sustains the universe.

The same Word that even now does not return to the Father void - but accomplishes His will for which He sends Him. Because, when you receive JESUS in the Holy Eucharist, and when you are in union with Him through your life of spiritual communion - everything that JESUS Christ, the Word of GOD was and did 2000 years ago - He will continue

to **be** and **do** in **you**, and through **you** today.

Indeed, JESUS emphatically said...

" Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My Name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of Me in My Name, I will do it." John 14:12-14

As you remain in JESUS, and His words remain in you - you have the **Word of GOD within YOU!** The Word of Creation. The Word of Authority. The Word of Power. The Word of Knowledge. The Word of Wisdom. The Word of Life, Healing, Deliverance, Forgiveness, Love.

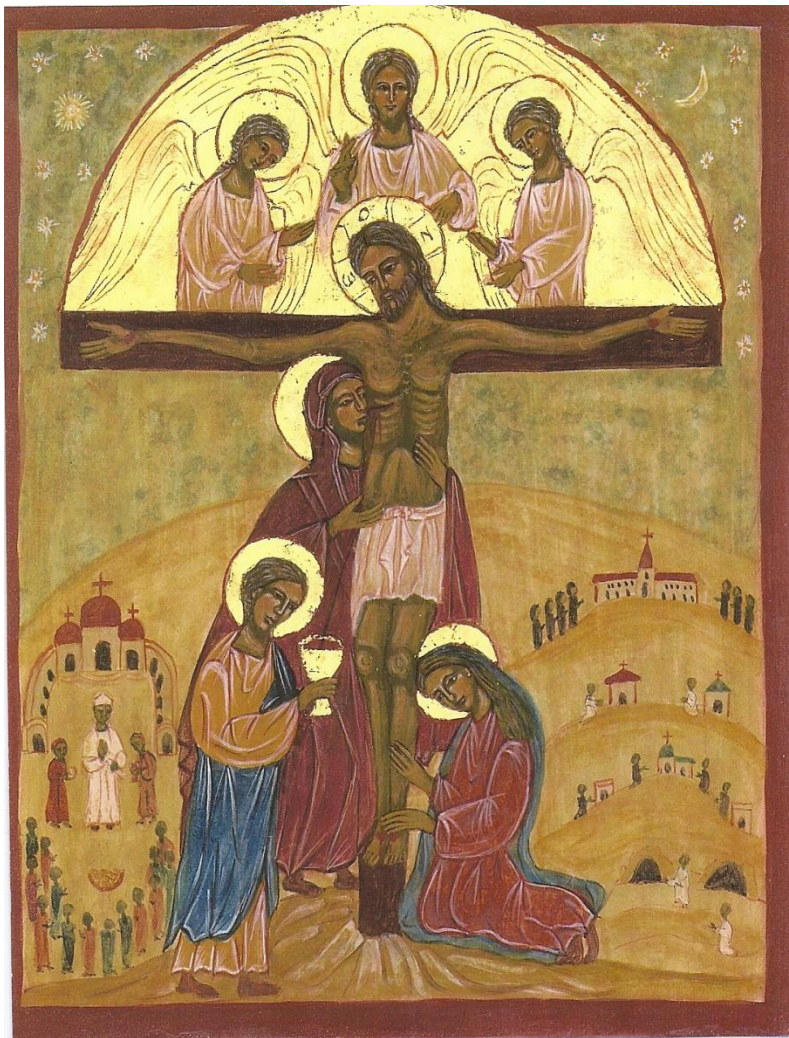
And, once again, the Word of GOD made flesh, the Lord JESUS Christ, comes in **you** for the life of the world.

So draw close now and listen - for the Most High GOD Who once spoke through thunder and fire and the prophets - now speaks to you in the stillness and silence of the Holy Eucharist.



Q. What do you see when you look upon the Face of JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist?

**A. THE LAMB OF GOD
ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY**



"The sacrifice of the cross and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are **one and the same sacrifice.**

The priest and the victim are the same; only the manner of offering is different: in a bloody manner on the cross, in an unbloody manner in the Eucharist."

Compendium of the Catholic Catechism #280

"In the Eucharist Christ gives us the very body which he gave up for us on the cross, the very blood which he poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Catholic Catechism #1365

"The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it **re-presents** (makes present) the sacrifice of the cross." Catholic Catechism #1366

And..."as often as the sacrifice of the cross...is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out." Catechism #1364

So, if you want to know what the "work of our redemption" is, and what that means to **you** - look at the gospels and see JESUS. See Him **set the captive (YOU!) free.**

See Him forgive sinners, heal the sick and drive out demons. See Him make the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute speak, the crippled rise and walk. See Him cleanse lepers and raise the dead.

Hear Him proclaim the good news to the poor - that the Kingdom of GOD has come, and is within our hearts! Look and listen as He shows you the Way of Truth and Life; finally grafting you into Himself in the Holy Eucharist, making you flesh of His Flesh and blood of His Blood - so that you may never be separated from Him again.

So come now and stand at the foot of the cross with Mary, and gaze upon the awesome mystery of GOD's love - **for you! Receive the work of your redemption now!**

" Let us open the door of His sacred and adorable Heart, and be wrapped about for an instant by the flames of His love, and we shall see what a GOD who loves us can do." Saint John Vianney

Q. What do you see when you look upon the Face of JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist?

**A. THE LAMB OF GOD
IN THE BOSOM OF THE FATHER**



From the beginning to the end of the Book of Revelation, the Lord JESUS Christ is referred to as **The Lamb**.

When you pray the **Heart of Mary Beads**, you are worshipping the slain Lamb of GOD on the Cross at Calvary

...and invoking the Resurrected and Ascended Lamb of GOD in Heaven.

" The Eucharistic Sacrifice makes present not only the mystery of the Savior's Passion and death, but also the mystery of the Resurrection which crowned His sacrifice.

It is as the living and risen One that Christ can become, in the Eucharist, the 'Bread of Life' (Jn 6:35,48), the 'Living Bread' (Jn 6:51)."
Ecclesia de Eucharistic - John Paul II

So look upon the glorified Lamb of GOD in the Holy Eucharist, and let the mystery penetrate your heart... ..that when you receive JESUS sacramentally in the Eucharist or spiritually in Spiritual Communion...

...that **it is as the living and risen One** that He is present in your body and soul.

Let the mystery penetrate your heart, that your old self was crucified with JESUS (Romans 6:6) - that you were "buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father" YOU TOO "might live in **newness of life.**"
Romans 6:4

And that now, in Christ, you are " **a new creature:** the old things have passed away; behold, **new things have come.**" (II Corinthians 5:17)

Let the mystery penetrate your heart, that GOD the Father "Brought us to life with Christ...raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavens in Christ JESUS..." (Ephesians 2:4-7)

" **The elevation of the host at the Mass is a symbol of our elevation in the resurrected Christ.**" (From Via Lucis: The Paschal Way of the Light - Station I. By Father Peter John Cameron, O.P.)

And so, as He is in you in the heaven of your soul, so you are in Him in the heaven of His glory. You are already seated with Him - in Him - in Paradise!

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. **For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**" Colossians 3:1-3

Let this glorious mystery penetrate your heart, that it may be no longer you who live, but **the living and risen Christ**, Who lives His **resurrected life** in you.

Q. What do you see when you look upon the Face of JESUS in the Blessed Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist?

**A. THE LAMB OF GOD
THE BRIDEGROOM OF YOUR SOUL**

" Blessed are those who have been called to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb." Rev.19:9

The story of salvation is a divine romance. JESUS came from heaven to win Himself a Bride. You are destined for a Royal Wedding!

In Jewish tradition, the bridegroom offered his beloved a cup of wine, and if she drank from it, that indicated her acceptance of his proposal to be his bride. After their betrothal, they were considered to be legally married, though the final ceremony and consummation would not take place for some time.

For then the bridegroom left his bride and went to prepare a place for her at his father's house. He would return for her at an unexpected time, to bring her home and make her his own.

When the bridegroom left his bride, he left behind the skein of wine. He pledged to her that he would not drink wine again until their wedding day. But she could drink the wine at any time to remind herself of his love.

The wine the Divine Bridegroom has left you, is His Blood. His life. His very Self. Even while He is gone from you, He lives within your heart.

Even while you await the final consummation of your love - you are already one Body and Soul with Him, in the Eucharist and in your heart.

For, on the day of your First Communion, you accepted JESUS' proposal to be His Bride and He betrothed you to Himself, already making you flesh of His Flesh and blood of His Blood.

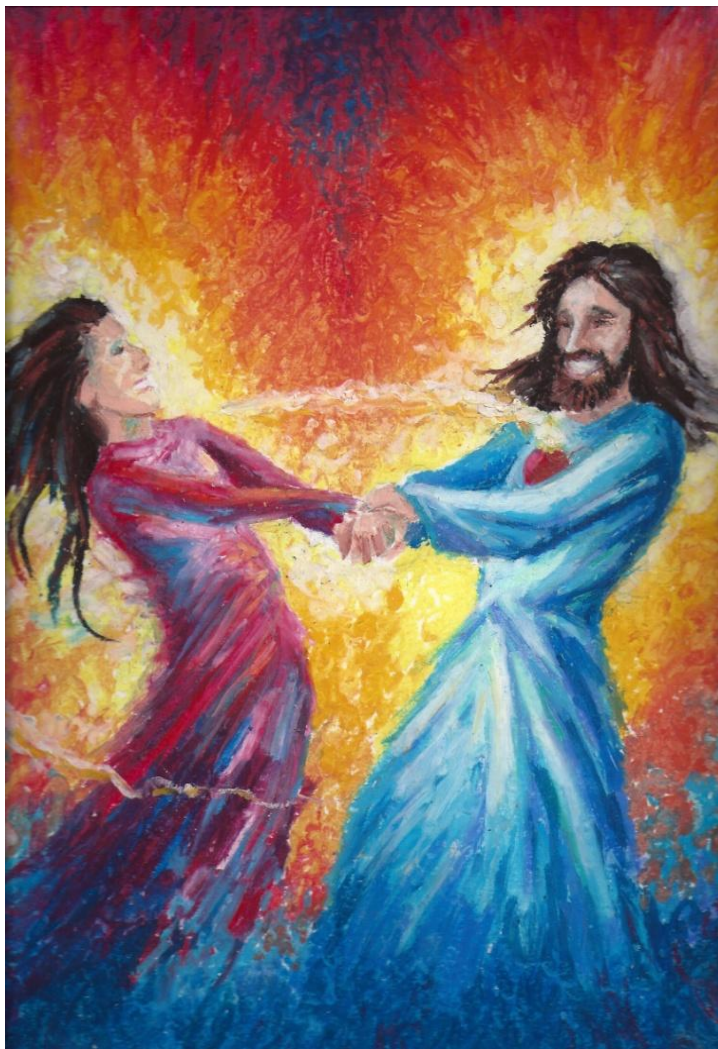
The Church is already mystically 'married' to the Most High GOD. And, as the Mystical Body of Christ - the Church - consists of each individual soul, so **you** are already chosen. **You** are already betrothed. You are already His possession and His love. You belong now to Him.

JESUS has gone to prepare a place for you in His Father's house, and one day He will return to take you to Himself and make you one with Him forever, at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

In Jewish tradition, the bridegroom gave the bride's father gifts - the "price" of the bride. The wealth of the gifts indicated to the father the value of the bride to the bridegroom.

The "price" JESUS paid for you, was to give His life for you. He "bought" you with His own Body and Blood.

So contemplate the love of your Divine Bridegroom in the Holy Eucharist. As, in His desire for intimacy and union with you, He gives Himself entirely - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity - to you, every day in sacramental communion, and every moment of every day in spiritual communion. There need be no day, nor any moment of any day, when you are apart from Him.



Contemplate that day, "the day of His marriage...the day of the joy of His Heart" (Song 3:11) when JESUS will make you one with Him forever.

And let your whole life be a preparation for the wedding day of the Lamb, so that, on that day, you may... "....rejoice and be glad and give Him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, His Bride has made herself ready." Revelation 19:7