



Diocese of Joliet

Year of the Eucharist

April 1, 2010 – June 26, 2011

Bread of Life—Covenant of Love

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August 2010 Newsletter

Events Beneficial for the Year of the Eucharist

This play on the Eucharistic miracle that took place in Lanciano, Italy might be beneficial for the Year of the Eucharist. Attached is a link to the play "A Miracle in Lanciano" on his website, which has more information about the plays and video clips of them. The actor who performs these one-man plays has been in the area-- he performed "Lolek", which is about Pope John Paul II, at Saints Peter and Paul in Naperville this past year.

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"Theatre of the Word Incorporated" is an acting troupe that travels the country evangelizing through drama. They have several plays that focus on the Eucharist and they are able to reach people of all ages. Kevin O'Brien is the president and artistic director. He has a show on EWTN - "The Theatre of the Word Incorporated". [More...](#)



The Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven



"Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."

LG 59; cf. Pius XII, Munificentissimus Deus (1950): DS 3903; cf. Rev 19:16.

The Feast of the Assumption celebrates Mary's entrance into heaven. Her corporeal assumption is universal in the East and the West. For hundreds of years, Catholics observed the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15 but it was not until 1950 that the Church proclaimed this teaching a *dogma of the Church* -- one of the essential beliefs of the Catholic faith. The Feast of the Assumption has always been loved dearly by the faithful who are children of Mary. It is a sign to us that someday, through God's grace and our efforts, we too may join the Blessed Mother in giving glory to God. The Assumption is a source of great hope for us, too, for it points the way for all followers of Christ who imitate her fidelity and obedience to God's will. Where she now is, we are meant eventually to be, and may hope to be through Divine grace. Mary being taken to heaven after her life on earth was ended is the logical outcome of her immaculate nature, uniquely protected—also by God's grace—from personal sin. We seek to imitate her self-sacrificing love, her indestructible faith and her perfect obedience.

"Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled."

For Christians, death is not destruction, though, unlike Mary, all ordinary mortals, even the most faithful Christians, the saints, must await the Second Coming of Christ and the general Resurrection to receive our "glorified bodies".

'May we see heaven as our goal and come to share her glory'.

Superabundant Font of Grace

The Second Vatican Council stressed that *"in the Blessed Eucharist is contained the entire spiritual treasure of the Church, Christ himself, our Pasch and the living Bread, who through His flesh, quickened and quickening in the Holy Spirit, gives life to men. In such wise these are invited and drawn to offer in union with Him their own work and all creation.*

The Feast (liturgical memorial) of St. Maximilian Kolbe is on August 14

Thus, the Eucharist is recognized as the source and summit of all evangelization." (1)

Saint Maximilian understood this well. He learned that the Eucharist brings extraordinary blessings for our sanctification and for our apostolate. In general he considered prayer as the most efficacious means for realizing that goal. Indeed, one Communion alone can make us saints, can effect the conversion of many sinners, but "all depends (also) on our interior dispositions, our preparation." (2) The Eucharist is food to be consumed with a pure heart, purified by frequent confession. Father Kolbe exhorted the members of the Maria Immaculata (and now us as well) that "they should approach the table of the Lord with a pure heart... Only a pure soul, in fact, is disposed to receive grace." (3)

Of great importance for the fruitfulness of the Eucharist is the immediate preparation for Mass and thanksgiving afterwards, which may and should be anticipated and prolonged through the diligent fulfillment of one's duties, with the desire of bringing joy to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To receive an abundance of graces at Mass it is necessary to pray much, above all after Holy Communion. (4) Saint Maximilian especially recommended adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. By means of adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament one can receive many graces for the conversion and sanctification of souls. When one believes in the Real Presence of the God-man in the tabernacle, when one professes with Father Kolbe: "He is our all," (5) one cannot remain indifferent, above all when one dwells near the house of God. Love impels one to visit the Divine Prisoner of love.



1. *Presb. Ord.*, n. 5.
2. SK II, 968, p. 647.
3. SK III, 1079, p. 167.
4. CK, January 24, 1933.
5. SK II, 987 B, p. 686.

YE Saint of the Month – Ss. Francis and Clare of Assisi



Saint Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. Perhaps no saint is better loved or known both within and outside the Church. He spans the centuries and remains ever contemporary, youthful and intriguing. He inspires the most diverse of peoples: artists and beggars, scholars and simple children, popes and peasants, the famous and powerful as well as the weak, helpless and unknown. He is an inspiration of saints, a prod for sinners and a prophet for the third millennium. For Francis, the Eucharist is the major way in which he sees Christ in this world. It is the sign of the presence of Christ with the Church in the world. In his early ministry he would enter churches to be sure that the Blessed Sacrament was not inadequately housed. Later in his exhortation, he wrote to the Guardians "to ensure that they housed the sacrament properly." He knew that it was the Blessed Sacrament that made the structure holy, and whenever the Sacrament was being carried anywhere he would have his friars "glorify and honor on bended knee the Lord God living and true." Clearly Francis had an intense reverence for the Blessed Sacrament.

Clare was born in Assisi, Italy in 1194 into a family of knights and nobles. At the age of eighteen, Clare became a follower of Saint Francis when she left her home on Palm Sunday night in order to be consecrated as the handmaid of Christ. Saint Francis soon took her to San Damiano where she devotes her whole self to Christ for over forty years. Because she remained rooted in one place, she liked to call herself the *little plant of Saint Francis*.

Clare also had a deep devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Her hagiography says that when the Saracens attacked her monastery, she protected her sisters and the cloister by elevating the Blessed Sacrament towards the attackers. She begged Jesus to protect her Sisters whom she was unable to protect. She heard the voice of our Lord promise: "I WILL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU." The Saracens fled in terror, and peace returned. As Clare did we may also claim for ourselves this same promise of our Lord. <http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/ye/patrons.asp>

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