

*HOLY FAMILY OF BORDEAUX*

*BICENTENARY OF*

*THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE*

*03/02/2022*



**GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO HIS CHILDREN.**

**HE LOVES THEM AND MANIFESTS HIMSELF TO THEM.**

The whole of salvation history reveals this truth to us.

In Paradise, when **Adam and Eve** have disobeyed, it is God who seeks them out: "Where are you?" From this encounter, they receive the mission to cultivate the earth.

At the oak of Mambre, the Lord reveals himself to **Abraham and Sarah**. God's promise is fulfilled and Sarah bore Isaac.

After a night of struggle, **Jacob** says: "I saw God face to face and I was saved", and after this encounter Jacob is reconciled with his brother Esau.

At the Burning Bush, God calls **Moses** to attention. He calls him and reveals his name: "I AM who I AM" and entrusts him with a mission of liberation: "Go, now ... bring my people out of Egypt". Moses is afraid, God reassures him: "I AM with you".

Throughout the centuries, the people of Israel awaited the **Messiah** and He came to us.

The angel Gabriel enters the home of **Mary**, an unknown young girl from a village in Galilee, far from Jerusalem. She is disturbed; the angel reassures her and reveals the mission:

- Do not be afraid, Mary, for you are about to give birth to a son.

Mary answered,

- Let all things happen to me according to your word".

And the Word became flesh.

In his turn, **Joseph**, in a dream, receives this revelation:

"Do not be afraid to take Mary, as your wife, into your home."

Joseph did as the angel commanded.

Let us contemplate how the Messiah manifests himself:

- in the poverty of a manger,
- in the insecurity of the journey and the exile in Egypt
- in the humble home of the carpenter in Nazareth



**By accepting to welcome Jesus in these conditions, Mary and Joseph allow God to reveal to the world his true face, and with what love he loves humanity and all creation.**

## **The whole life of Jesus teaches us this.**

This love is that of the Father for his Son, a love which Peter, James and John receive in confidence before the transfigured Jesus.

"This is **my beloved Son**, listen to him".

**It is out of an excess of love that Jesus wants to remain in our midst  
And that he gives his life for us.**

**"Jesus took the bread, BLESSED it, BROKE it and GAVE it to his apostles..."  
"This is my Body which will be given up for you"**

After his resurrection, Jesus hides from the crowd, but he comforts his disciples by showing himself to them and transforms them into witnesses with a burning heart:

- To **Mary Magdalene** he said: "Go to my brothers and tell them that I am going up to my Father and your Father...".
- The **pilgrims to Emmaus** recognise Jesus in the breaking of bread.
- To the **gathered disciples**, he wishes peace and sends them: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you... Receive the Holy Spirit...

**And I am with you always, to the end of the age."**



**What happened on 3 February 1822 in Bordeaux?**

**Where did Jesus choose to manifest himself on that day?**

In "the humblest, poorest, most despised of all the communities in Bordeaux ... a few poor girls, with no secure means of support ... They were laughed at ...".

At that time, the sisters of the Holy Family lived in anguish, doubt and discouragement.

Jesus appears in the host of the Blessed Sacrament exposed. His visible, living presence is the much desired response that brings peace.

Jesus blessed all those present, not only the sisters, but also the priest who stood in for the Good Father and the people of the neighbourhood who were present. From the beginning, the humble house of the community is open to others.

Father Delort testifies: "Yes, you have seen Our Lord.

It is a favour that He has granted you to remind you that He is truly with you, to lead you to love Him more and more."

Let us listen to the words received in her heart by Mother Milady Peychaud:

**"I AM the One who IS, and there is no other.  
The honour and esteem of creatures are but smoke...  
Their friendship is but dust ...  
Wealth and pleasures are but mud,  
and I AM He who IS, and there is no other".**

Jesus confirms the desire of the Good Father and of his nascent Family:  
**"To live for GOD ALONE".**

Jesus offers us a path, a path of conversion:

These words echo those of Pope Francis who so often denounces "worldliness", pride, selfishness, indifference...

**Lord, give us the courage to walk with You on this path**



**Jesus blesses us so that we become a blessing to others.**

In the Eucharist, Jesus gives all that He is and all that He has.  
He says to us:

"Go! I will be with you... I will live in you.  
You will lend me your eyes, your lips, your arms, your heart,  
and I will begin to heal and liberate again!"

At every Eucharist we say:

"Lord, we give you thanks that you have chosen us to SERVE in your PRESENCE".

You ASSOCIATE us with your mission of COMMUNION:

"GATHER into one Holy Family the scattered children of God."

**Together, let us open our constitutions, our statutes and let them speak to us again today.**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our life of faith: from it we draw zeal for the Kingdom. Nourished at the Lord's Table we are ready to break the bread of our life for our brothers and sisters- a sign of communion, which enables us to be family in the heart of the Church.

Recalling the Eucharistic Benediction given to our Family in its infancy, our life becomes prayer and thanksgiving, a commitment to God Alone.

*(Statutes of Lay Associates – Art. 42 - 43).*

The Eucharist is the basis of our consecration and the centre of our life. We participate in it whenever possible.

Thanksgiving and praise unite us to the Paschal Mystery. It unites us to the different groups of the Family and to the whole Church. It makes our consecrated life a continuous offering to the Father and enables Christ to make it a sign of his presence.

*(Constitutions of Consecrated Seculars, Art. 58)*

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the centre of our life.... Through his presence in the Eucharist, Jesus remains in our midst. During times of adoration we have the joy of meeting him as Lord and Master and of allowing him to permeate our being. The memory of the benediction which he gave to our newly founded Family in 1822 is for us a special call to thanksgiving.

*(General Rules of the Religious Institute, No. 30)*

The celebration of the Eucharist unites us intimately with the Paschal mystery of Christ. It sends us out to work for the transformation of the world with renewed hope. As bread for our journey, the body of Christ nourishes our faith, strengthens our love and commits us to serve our brothers and sisters...

*(Particular Rules of Apostolic Sisters, Art. 106).*

The Eucharistic celebration renews our covenant of love with the Lord, enables us to share in his oblation and to participate in his work of salvation. As a continuation of the celebration we adore him, the Lamb who was slain and who lives forever.

*(Particular Rules of Contemplative Sisters, No. 186)*

Following our Founder's example, we, the priest associates of the Holy Family, are to celebrate each and every Eucharist with ardent piety and devotion. We have to remember that when we celebrate the Eucharist we are able... to make Jesus present, in the midst of local people, as head and shepherd.

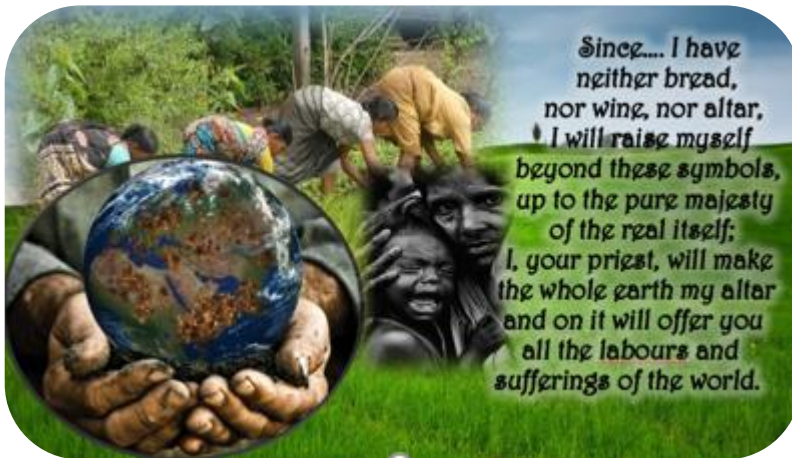
... That Christ died for our sins and his resurrection gave us the hope of eternal life, and his final coming will gather us all as one family, are the daily echoes we hear and experience in the Eucharistic celebration.

*(Statutes of Priest Associates, from Art. 7)*

"At the end of his extraordinary life, as he was on the point of leaving it, just before he ascended to Heaven, Jesus invented a new and more wonderful way of staying with us, being united with us and identifying even more with us. In the sacrament of the Eucharist he gave us a new proof of the most incomprehensible love by becoming our food, our drink, our blood. He is in us and we are in Him."

*(Retreat preached by P.B. Noailles, 1838. Spiritual Guide, no. 46)*

In 1923, Father **Teilhard de Chardin** published his universal vision of the Eucharist in "**The Mass on the World**":



“As the sun’s fire begins to rise on the horizon, the living surface of the earth wakes and trembles, and once again begins its fearful travail. I will place on my paten, O God, the harvest to be won by the renewal of labour. Into my chalice I shall pour all the sap which is to be pressed out this day from the earth’s fruits”.

Over every living thing which is to spring up, to grow, to flower, to ripen during this day, say again the words:

**This is my Body**

And, over every death-force which waits in readiness to corrode, to wither, to cut down, speak again the commanding words which express the supreme mystery of faith:

**This is my Blood**

In 2015, in the encyclical **Laudatosi**, Pope Francis gives us his testimony:

“In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living centre of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love”.

*(Laudato si. No. 236)*

**LET US GIVE THANKS FOR THIS WONDERFUL GIFT TO OUR FAMILY**



*“Glory, glory, glory to God,  
Glory, glory be to God Alone”.*