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Bread of Life

### **Lesson 7: Transubstantiation**

#### **Opening Prayer**

**LCE page #25-30 (Question #36-50)**

#### **3 ways that Christ is present at Mass (other than the Eucharist)**

- (1) In the Word
  - Jesus is the Word of God
- (2) In the Priest
  - Acting *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ.
  - The priest submits himself to the work of Christ
- (3) In the Congregation
  - In the people celebrating, especially the baptized, who are members of His body.

#### **Transubstantiation**

- **Trans**
  - Movement/change
- **Substance**
  - **\*LCE: Question #37\* What is substance?**
    - *A reality existing in itself and not in something else.*
    - Dimensions/accidents/appearances—do not exist in themselves but only in something else. (color, weight, shape, etc.)
- **Substance and Appearance**
  - Substances exist in and of themselves
  - Appearances exist in something else (in a substance)

So **Transubstantiation** can be defined as: *a change or movement in substance.*

- **3 Examples**
  - Tree throughout the seasons
    - Substance same, appearances change.
  - Log in a fireplace
    - Becomes ash, so the substance and appearances change.
  - Mass—Eucharist
    - Change in the substance, but no change in the appearances.
    - **\*Opposite of what we see in nature\***
      - **Use these examples with your children!**

- **2 miracles happening here in the Mass!**
  - (1) Substance is changing (bread and wine into Body and Blood)
  - (2) Appearances do NOT change (taste, smell, feel, look, etc. like bread and wine!)
  
- 2 necessary things for Transubstantiation to happen:
  - **Words of the Priest (Christ)**
  - **Calling/Power of the Holy Spirit**

Remember, Our Lord is truly, physically present within us after we have received His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. It takes about 15 minutes for the host to be digested and processed in our body, so the Lord is present in us for that time and we should be mindful of this and spend this intimate time with Him in prayer and thanksgiving.

- **\*LCE: Question #43\* How is this possible? (Christ coming to us and being present to us while not leaving Heaven)**
  - Transubstantiation makes this possible! We know exactly where He is physically present because of the Body and Blood. \*Remember: it is the risen and glorified body of Christ that we are receiving!\*
  
- **Part II of the LCE—Eucharistic Miracles (page 51)**
  - Read at least one with your children. Page 56—the miracle of Lanciano, Italy is a beautiful one!
  - But keep in mind, that a miracle happens at every Mass!
  
- **When we break the host, do we break Christ?**
  - Remember, each and every particle of the host, no matter how small, contains the whole Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. We are to treat every fragment as the whole Christ.