

Jn 6:51-58 Corpus Christi 2026

Around the year 740 in Lanciano, Italy, a monk was having doubts about the real presence. As he celebrated mass, during the consecration, the host actually turned into living flesh and the wine turned into blood.

After more than 1300 years, the flesh and blood are still preserved and can be seen in the Church of San Francesco in Lanciano, Italy.

The blood has congealed into five clots. A hospital lab tested the flesh and blood. The flesh is heart tissue. The blood is the very rare type AB positive, the same as on the shroud of Turin which covered Jesus' face.

What is so amazing, is that when you weigh only one blood clot, it weighs the same as all five together; two of them weigh the same as all five.

That means Jesus is fully present in every particle of the Eucharist no matter how small.

In the year 1226, in Santarem, Italy, a poor woman went to a witch who requested a consecrated host to put a spell on her unfaithful husband.

When the woman received communion, she took it out of her mouth and wrapped it in a veil.

But blood began flowing from the veil! She panicked, ran home and put it in a chest. That night the whole house was shining with rays of light from the particle.

What these miracles say is "*I AM Here.*" *I am here and I love you as imperfect and as wounded as you are.*

But we have to accept it in faith. What we accept and what we believe in is the *Real Presence*...that the Holy Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

Because like Jesus said, *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life...For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink* (Jn 6:54-55).

But the Protestants will argue this is all merely symbolic. Because Jesus says in verse 63:

It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life (Jn 6:63).

So they argue, that we can't literally eat His body and drink His blood.

But consider this: at the Last Supper Jesus said: *This [IS] my body...This [IS] my blood* (Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20). He didn't say, is a symbol.

Jesus wasn't speaking symbolically. His own disciples, who knew Him better than anyone else, understood Him quite literally when they said:

How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat? (Jn 6:52). And, This saying is hard; who can accept it? (Jn 6:60).

And if it was merely symbolic, why did so many of His disciples walk away? (Jn 6:66). Better yet, why didn't Jesus stop them?

If it was merely symbolic, as a rabbi (teacher) he had an obligation to say so. In fact, every time the disciples didn't understand something, Jesus would explain it to them.

But not this time. Because it was as clear as day. He even turned to the remaining twelve and asked them: *Do you also want to leave? (Jn 6:67).*

And Peter, who answered, didn't say, "Oh, no Lord, we know You are only speaking symbolically." He said, *Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life (Jn 6:68).*

In other words, they understood what He was saying literally just like us Catholics. And even if they did not understand it, they would accept it in faith. They chose to believe!

The question is why? Why must we eat the Flesh and drink the Blood of Jesus? Because Jesus said so. And perhaps, because there is a sense of certainty.

When we pray, we receive Jesus spiritually. But we may still wonder...was I distracted? Did I really receive Jesus?

But when we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood, there is a sense of certainty...
...that we receive Jesus Christ not only spiritually but also physically—into every fiber and living cell of our humanity.

And that, becomes a life-transforming miracle! Because like Jesus said: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him* (Jn 6:56).

This is how Jesus' life becomes our life. He abides in us and we abide in Him (Jn 15:4). We live in Jesus. And if we live in Jesus, then we live in God.

The key is this: In order for the Eucharist to transform you into Jesus Christ, you have to take the initiative. You have to act...like you have already been transformed into Jesus Christ.

That is your calling. Become a servant like Jesus, who put the needs of others before His own.

Offer your time, talent, and treasure like the bread of life to feed God's children.

And allow your love and compassion to overcome any pride and selfishness by praying and caring for anyone who needs you.

Brothers and sisters, we are about to receive the greatest gift God could have given us: the Bread of Life, the Holy Eucharist, the life of God into us.

Let us pray: Come into us, Lord Jesus, in the Holy Eucharist. So we become You and You become us...thereby giving glory to God.

Because together with St. Paul, we now say: *I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me* (Gal 2:20).