

THE SACRAMENT OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST
RCIA Presentation by Fr. Thomas LaHood (Jan 5, 2016)

Eucharist as Meal

Passover: Exodus 12

Multiplication of the Loaves: Mark 6:34-44

Last Supper: Mark 14:12-26

Eucharist as Sacrifice

Hebrews 9

1 Corinthians 11:17-33

Both of these depend on belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
Explained as Transubstantiation

Substance: What is a Substance?

Sub: under, underneath

Stance: stand, placement

Every thing is a made up of a Nature and an act of Being

A Nature is the “what it is”

An individual tree has tree-ness as its nature

Many individual objects can share the same nature; there are
billions of trees

But each individual needs an act of being given by God

God makes each thing to be

When a nature is joined to act of being there is an individual
object: that tree in the yard

Consubstantial

God’s nature is To Be, existence itself

In God His nature and Being are the same thing

An individual human being is human nature joined to an act of being

Jesus’ human nature does not have its own act of being, rather the divine
Nature (Being itself) gives existence to his human nature

Transubstantiation

Trans: to go from or beyond

Substance: A nature and an act of being

Both the nature and the act of being of bread and wine (the substances) are removed and are replaced by the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity (the Substance) of Jesus Christ

The appearances of bread and wine, what we experience of it through our senses remain

Looks, smells, tastes, feels like bread and wine

These appearances become symbolic (species)

What this means:

Eucharist as Meal: we are really consuming the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ

We eat a true meal under the appearance of bread and wine

We are really in Communion with the Church and with each other; joined together in the Body of Christ

We receive what we need “to live” spiritually

Receiving the same graces

Hoping in the same promises

Sharing the same Nuptial Feast with the Church visible and invisible

One in Faith, Hope and Love

Eucharist as Sacrifice: The sacrifice of Christ is truly made present

When the bread is consecrated it is fully the Body and Blood of Christ

The separate consecration of the wine into his blood signifies his death

The separation of His Blood from His Body signifies His Sacrificial Death

Each contains the whole Christ

Each species (bread or wine) is fully the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ

The laity can receive one or the other or both

The Priest must receive both as he is making present the sacrifice

We truly participate in the Christ’s sacrifice

We become part of Jesus’ perfect act of worship of His Father

Our lives become a living sacrifice

The Father is also ‘well pleased’ with us

We crucify sin and inordinate attachments

We grow in love for Jesus and for the Father

We will be raised from the dead with the Risen Christ