



# Year of the Eucharist

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## *Is Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist?*

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In Conversation with God

When our sight, touch and taste make a judgment about the true, real and substantial presence of Christ in the Eucharist, each one of these senses totally fails us. They can grasp the external appearances, the accidents; they can perceive the color, the smell, the shape and the quantity of the bread or of the wine, but they are unable to infer from them the underlying reality, because they lack the information that is given only by faith, and that comes to us only in the words by which divine revelation has been transmitted to us: ***THE EAR ALONE MOST SAFELY IS BELIEVED.*** That is why when we contemplate this ineffable mystery with the eyes of our soul we must do so *with humble reverence, not following human arguments, which ought to be hushed, but in steadfast adherence to divine Revelation*, in order to make it possible for us to grasp this true and mysterious reality.

The Church teaches us that Christ becomes really present in the Blessed Eucharist *through the conversion of the entire substance of bread into His Body and through the conversion of the entire substance of wine into His Blood, leaving unchanged only those properties of bread and wine which are open to our senses. This hidden conversion is appropriately and justly called by the Church 'TRANSUBSTANTIATION'.* And Holy Mother Church herself warns us that any explanation given with the object of making this ineffable mystery easier to understand must maintain, without ambiguity, that order of reality which exists independently of the human mind, the bread and wine cease to exist after the consecration. ***From then on therefore, the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus, under the sacramental species of bread and wine, are truly presented before us for our adoration.***

After the Consecration, Jesus is present on the altar or in the tabernacle in which the consecrated Hosts are reserved, even though out of blindness I should fail to make the smallest act of faith, or out of hardness of heart I were to make no manifestation of love. It is not my fervor that causes Him to be present – **HE IS THERE!**

Let us consider today how we should behave in His presence, and what kind of trust and respect we should have for Him. Let us ask ourselves whether our faith becomes deeper and more penetrating when we are before the tabernacle, or whether the darkness of the senses prevails and they remain as though blind in the presence of this divine reality. Let us say, "Jesus, I firmly believe, that You are here. I adore You with profound reverence. Come into my heart."