Have you heard of Blessed Carlo Acutis? He was an Italian boy who lived in the 1990s and early 2000s who had a sincere faith and strong devotion to the Holy Eucharist. In fact, as a toddler he would ask his mother if he could visit Jesus when they walked through town. He would go inside of the church, and kiss the foot of the crucifix. His mother was not even practicing the faith at the time, but his faith encouraged her to take her own faith more seriously. She became a catechist and Carlo her aide.

Sadly, Blessed Carlo died from Leukemia at age 15, but in his short life he inspired many. He was a very kind boy that loved God and neighbor. He was beatified in October 2020 by Pope Francis, and is actually the patron of the upcoming Eucharistic Revival in our country beginning this summer, led by the USCCB. Blessed Carlo, among many other things in his life, put together a website documenting over 100 Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place around the world! You can visit it at http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html.

But there’s more good news regarding this for our local area. A parishioner of the diocese has been leading the effort to bring displays explaining these miracles to Victoria. In fact, we’re looking to purchase our own set of displays but need to fundraise about $4,400. We’ve raised about $1,750 so far. If you’re interested in supporting this effort, please call me at 361-573-0828 x 2265. The goal is to have the set of displays available for parishes to rent and display beginning in July.

The important questions for us to consider as we ponder these miracles are the following, in my opinion:
1. **Do we really believe in the Real Presence?** The answer to this question can change our life and eternity. If we really believe that the God of the universe and Lord of all creation is present in the bread and wine at Mass, do we make every effort to be there? As I heard a priest once put it, if you were told that if you came to the church at a certain time every day that you would receive one million dollars, wouldn’t you make every effort to be there? Yet, we have something so much greater in Christ! Do we make every effort to receive His Body and Blood not just weekly, but as often as we can?

2. **Do we have the courage to tell others about the Eucharist?** I think sometimes as Catholics, we tend to think the Eucharist is something “extra” to the faith, like we are Christian “plus” the Eucharist. BUT, we must never forget that we have the fullness of the Christian faith, and the Eucharist is essential to being Christian. Jesus Himself said it, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day,” - John 6:54 (NABRE). Jesus didn’t give us the Eucharist as something to consider or think about participating in, He gave it to us because we need it! If this is true, shouldn’t we be telling everyone we know about the Eucharist and inviting them to Mass, especially our Catholic brethren who are no longer attending? Christ is counting on us to invite them to the banquet of heaven and earth!

3. **Do we live as if we’ve received Him?** Have you ever heard the saying to make sure you are Christian in the parking lot after Mass, not just while you’re in the church? The Body and Blood of Jesus should change the way we live to be more like Him. Not on our own effort, but in response and openness to the many graces received each time we receive Holy Communion in a state of grace. The Sacrament of the Altar has the power to transform us. As Catholics, we really believe “you are what you eat” in regards to the Eucharist. We become like Christ! One of my favorite quotes about the Eucharist comes from St. Cyril of Jerusalem, who lived in the fourth century, long before we established the Mass as we have it today (through there were already many similarities in the liturgy): “Just as by melting two candles together you get one piece of wax, so, I think, one who receives the flesh and blood of Jesus is fused together with Him, and the soul finds that he is in Christ and Christ is in him.”

So my friends, please take some time to consider what a gift the Eucharist is in our lives and for our church. And consider how you can invite others to participate in this gift. The best way to always start is by saying a prayer for them. God bless!