

Victor Gabriel Gilbert (1847-1933) *The Harvest*, oil on canvas, detail; US PD; Source: Gandalf's Gallery Flickr



"LET THEM
GROW
TOGETHER
UNTIL
HARVEST"
MT 13:30



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD | JULY 23, 2023

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)

SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:30 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
11:30 am
5:00 pm

CONFESSION

THURSDAY

5:00-6:00 pm

SATURDAY

8:00-9:30 am
3:00-4:30 pm

SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-5 pm

FRONT DESK:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-8 pm

SATURDAY: 8 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (303) 469-5171

Fax: (303) 469-5172

School: (303) 466-4177

900 W. Midway Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020



GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you are going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at (303) 469-5171.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at (303) 466-8859 or at joannefarver@comcast.net.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 22

9:30 am Stephen & Jaynie Sheldon
special intention
4:30 pm Health of Wesley Miller
by Denise Peter

SUNDAY, JULY 23

7:30 am Matt & Kim Pollard
by Lauren Pollard
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am † Andreina Piñero
by Adriana Piñero & Family
5:00 pm Alexia Tyler & Ashley
by Grandma and Grandpa

MONDAY, JULY 24

7:00 am † Diane Potter
by Methfessel Family
9:30 am Ronald Begier by Donna Farrell

TUESDAY, JULY 25

7:00 am Ronald Begier by
Bill & Carol Kerwin
9:30 am Mary Daanchetz by Marita

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

7:00 am † Tom & Kathy Fattor
by Charlie & Ann McGinness
9:30 am Marylou Sivigliano
by Bette Dean

THURSDAY, JULY 27

7:00 am Ronald Bergier
by Hillenbrand Family
9:30 am † Jim Masciarelli
by Cronin Family

FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:00 am Birthday Blessings for Marylou
9:30 am † Diane Potter
by Methfessel Family

SATURDAY, JULY 29

9:30 am Ronald Bergier
by Kathy Bunonanici
4:30 pm Connie & Phil Gadecki
by Opie Family

SUNDAY, JULY 30

7:30 am James Omernik
by Richard and Kathy Northrop
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am Hazel VonFeldt
5:00 pm † Jim Masciarelli
by Masciarelli Family

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Cyndi Beckingham

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Mon, July 24 | 10 am

Ron Riedl
Patty Kondratko
Steve Moser
Susan Martinez

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH:

THURSDAY

12:00-6:00 pm

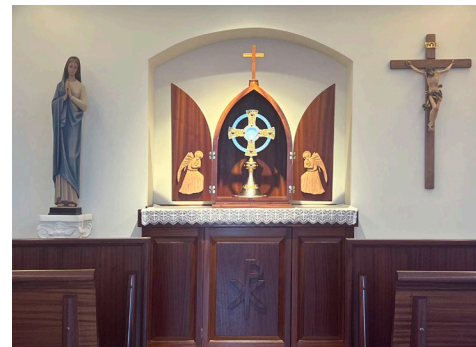
SOLEMN HOLY HOUR:

5:00-6:00 pm with *Confession* and *Vespers*
Benediction: 5:55 pm

IN THE CHAPEL:

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00 am-5:00 pm



PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JULY 22

8:00 am | Marian Movement of
Priests Cenacle
1:00 pm | JP2 Families BBQ

SUNDAY, JULY 23

11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary

MONDAY, JULY 24

6:30 pm | New Springtime Charismatic
Prayer Group

TUESDAY, JULY 25

1:00 pm | Adult Tuesday Bible Study:
Footprints of God

THURSDAY, JULY 27

6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry

FRIDAY, JULY 28

9:00 am | Educating on the Nature and
Dignity of Women (ENDOW)

SATURDAY, JULY 29

8:00 am | Marian Movement of
Priests Cenacle



SIGN UP AT

app.flocknote.com/nool



FROM A MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY TO THE DESIRE TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO THE LORD: THE STORY OF THE VOCATION OF GIORGIO GHIGO, WHO BECAME A PRIEST ON JUNE 24, 2023

April '93. It all starts there. Born prematurely, I am abandoned by my mother in the wards of the children's hospital in Turin. The nurse decides to call me Giorgio, so as not to let the registry office replace the X with any name. It all starts there because, as I often repeat to myself, "I could not be here, but I am here." The courageous decision to carry out a pregnancy, probably not expected or desired, makes me pray every day for the mother who gave God a chance to do great things. After a few months in the incubator, cared for by the nurses, my mom and dad came to adopt me. "You are not and will never be alone" is the word of God's gesture of mercy toward me. "Does a woman forget about her child, so as not to be moved by the son of her bowels? Even if they forget, I will never forget you" (Is 49:15). Radhika from India and Jesus Antonio from Colombia also arrived in my family. A multi-ethnic family!

I was the one who first asked my parents if I was born from their "belly." My mom who didn't expect this question so soon said to me, "No, Giorgio, you were not born from our belly, but something more. You were born from my heart and Dad's." This phrase was repeated to me many times especially when at the age of five, being more aware, they told me my story again. I remember crying so much because I wanted to be born to them. I didn't want to be a "half-hearted" son, I wanted to be all theirs. In the years of the seminary, with Don Francesco and Don Paolo, I learned to look at my story, to go deeper and deeper. Because there was already everything in the beginning. Now thus says the Lord who created you, who shaped you: "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name: you belong to me. [...] Because you are precious in my eyes, because you are worthy of esteem and I love you." (Is 43,1-4). These words of God have now become a foundation in my life, on which to build and let everything be built. Nothing and no one will be able to delete them, because they totally define my person.

My family belongs to the Communion and Liberation movement and I have received an education in Christianity from an early age. At the end of high school, however, my life was very fragmented: family, school, conservatory, girlfriend, sports, etc. Instead, I felt in my heart the desire to be 'one'.

At university, I chose Architecture because I wanted to become like Antoni Gaudí and build a great work for God. I also wanted to be, as he called himself, "an architect of God." So I moved from Cuneo to Turin, to the apartments of the university students of CL. Life with them was incredible. It was a place where this desire for unity in my life was really taken seriously and where I experienced that it is possible to have real friends.

It was at the beginning of my second year that I met the Fraternity of St. Charles. Three seminarians came to the Polytechnic to present an exhibition on authorship

in literature asking us for a hand in the organization and I offered myself as a guide. We were all impressed by them, their decision to become priests and their friendship. What struck me the most was the joy that was in their eyes. It was clear that they were happy guys.

Those eyes remained imprinted on me. How was it possible that three boys, a little older than me, had a life like that? I who had "everything," didn't have that joy in my heart.

I already saw myself as a brilliant architect, married and with many children, like my family. And yet, God's plans are always different and always more beautiful than our little "inventions always made without love." It was after the visit of those seminarians that the question arose: "But if God asked you to do as they do, that is, leave everything to give your life to Him, would you be available?" Not without struggle, I finally recognized the path that God had thought for me from the beginning. A path that in 2015 took me to the gates of the seminary in Rome where God showed his faithfulness: "You belong to me, you will never be alone."

”

BUT IF GOD ASKED YOU TO DO AS THEY DO, TO LEAVE EVERYTHING TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO HIM, WOULD YOU BE AVAILABLE?

Source:

www.sancarlo.org/ti-chiamato-nome



Translated from Italian by
Nativity Staff



DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

Reading 1: Sgs 3:1-4b
Psalm: 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9
Gospel: Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Reading 1: Wis 12:13, 16-19
Psalm: 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Reading 2: Rom 8:26-27
Gospel: Mt 13:24-43

MONDAY, JULY 24

Reading 1: Ex 14:5-18
Psalm: Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6
Gospel: Mt 12:38-42

TUESDAY, JULY 25

Feast of Saint James, Apostle
Reading 1: 2 Cor 4:7-15
Psalm: 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Gospel: Mt 20:20-28

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Reading 1: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15
Psalm: 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28
Gospel: Mt 13:1-9

THURSDAY, JULY 27

Reading 1: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b
Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56
Gospel: Mt 13:10-17

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Reading 1: Ex 20:1-17
Psalm: 19:8, 9, 10, 11
Gospel: Mt 13:18-23

SATURDAY, JULY 29

Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
Reading 1: Ex 24:3-8
Psalm: 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15
Gospel: Jn 11:19-27

PRAY THE ROSARY

WITH US

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Learning Christ from Mary. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of "learning him." In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother. — St. John Paul II
Rosarium Virginis Mariae



NATIVITY DAYS 2023 | AUGUST 10-13

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 4-7 PM | NATIVITY NIGHTS

Centered on Eucharistic Adoration and Confession, with a talk on St. John Paul II and the Eucharist, Vespers, kid's activities, and free dinner served in St. Francis Cabrini Hall



SCAN WEBSITE
CODE TO
REGISTER
FOR THE
CORNHOLE
TOURNAMENT



WWW.NOOL.US/NATIVITY-DAYS

PRAY FOR LIFE!

A group of Nativity parishioners pray for life outside the Boulder Abortion Clinic every Tuesday, leaving Nativity at 8:00 am and returning by 11:00 am. Please pray for life and join us if you can.

PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER 2023 GALA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

5:30 PM-9:30 PM

Wiens Corporate Hanger
11824 Corporate Way, Broomfield

Near the "Clinic" is the Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center, an organization that has saved many lives. Their 2023 Gala, Aloha Ola Luau, supporting their lifesaving work will be celebrating life with a reception, dinner, Luau Dancers, and Testimonials. Individual Tickets cost is \$120.00.

To register call 303-960-7915 by August 10. Mention Nativity of Our Lord to sit with other Nativity Parishioners.

For more information, call Eloise or Phil Georgen at 303-469-8156.

ADULT CONFIRMATION AT NATIVITY

Are you a baptized adult who needs the Sacrament of Confirmation? Nativity is offering an Adult Confirmation class starting in September, see page 5.

To register, go to the website and register for Adult Confirmation or contact: Beverly Ketchel, b.ketchel@nool.us with your questions.

www.nool.us/adult-confirmation



REGISTER

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED FOR FUNERAL MASSES DURING THE SUMMER

To make yourself available please follow the link below and choose your time slot: WWW.NOOL.US/ALTAR-SERVING

SIGN UP



FAITH FORMATION AT NATIVITY

FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

2023-2024



CGS

(CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD)

LEVEL I: 3-6 YRS
 LEVEL II: 6-9 YRS
 SPECIAL NEEDS: 5-10 YRS

MONDAYS

1-3 PM | LEVELS I + II
 4-5:30 PM | LEVEL II

TUESDAYS

10-11:30 AM | LEVEL I
 4-5:30 PM | LEVEL I

THURSDAYS

4:30-5:30 | SPECIAL NEEDS

STARTING: 9/11/2023

REGISTRATION OPENS: 8/14

CONTACT: Diane Irby
d.irby@nool.us, 303-731-0425

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

If your children have received First Communion, they are eligible to be Altar Servers. Stay tuned for upcoming altar server training information.

CONTACT: Fr. Emanuele
e.fadini@nool.us

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1ST-5TH GRADERS

TUESDAYS

6-7:30 PM

WEDNESDAYS

4-5:30 PM

STARTING: 9/5/2023

REGISTRATION OPENS: 8/14

CONTACT: Faith Alive
 303-731-0425

VENTURERS OF THE STAR

6TH-8TH GRADERS

TUESDAYS

6:30-8 PM

STARTING: 9/5/2023

CONTACT: Fr. Accu
a.ciaccio@nool.us

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH/GS

9TH-12TH GRADERS

SUNDAYS

6-9 PM

STARTING: 8/20/2023

CONTACT: Fr. Emanuele
e.fadini@nool.us

RCIA & RCIC

www.nool.us/becoming-catholic

REGISTER



www.nool.us/religious-education#

www.nool.us/middle-school

www.nool.us/high-school

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN



Photo: Elizabeth Gleason and her son surrounded by children during a CGS lesson at Atrium in 2022

This fall, we will be offering Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for Special Needs Children. If you have a child between 5 and 10 years of age, with special needs and would like more information please contact, Elizabeth Gleason at Elizabeth_Miller3@alumni.baylor.edu.

ALL ARE WELCOME!
REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 14!

ADULT CONFIRMATION

CLASS DATES:

THU, SEP 14, 6:30 PM

THU, SEP 28, 6:30 PM

THU, OCT 5, 6:30 PM

THU, OCT 26, 6:30 PM

REHEARSAL:

WED, OCT 25, 6:30-7:30 PM

MASS

SAT, OCT 28, 11:00 AM

CONTACT: Beverly Ketchel
b.ketchel@nool.us
 303-731-0425

www.nool.us/adult-confirmation

REGISTER



RESTORED ORDER, 2024

(Confirmation & First Communion)

CLASS DATES:

FEBRUARY 8, 6:15 PM

FEBRUARY 22, 6:15 PM

MARCH 14, 6:15 PM

APRIL 11, 6:15 PM

MASS:

APRIL 27, 11 AM

CONTACT: Diane Irby
d.irby@nool.us, 303-731-0425
www.nool.us/restored-order



REGISTER



SILVER ROSE PILGRIMAGE

WILL STOP AT NATIVITY:

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023, 9:30 AM



Each year, from early March through mid-December, a Silver Rose Pilgrimage is stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along eight routes from Canada, United States, and Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners, and community members to pray for **respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** The eight Silver

Roses will arrive on December 12 for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and are placed at the feet of the original image at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

We are blessed to have the Silver Rose Pilgrimage stop at Nativity of Our Lord on Saturday morning, August 5 to celebrate the Rosary for Life in conjunction with our parish pro-life community. The procession of the Silver Rose at Nativity will begin at the 9:30 Mass on Saturday, August 5, and the prayer service will immediately follow Mass led by Fr. Julius. Please join us for this special celebration!

HEALING FROM DIVORCE

GUIDANCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SEPARATED OR DIVORCED, AND ARE IN NEED OF A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH HIS CHURCH

Join the Surviving Divorce Program, a personal guide for participants and resources for anyone who wants to know more about what the Catholic Church teaches about love, sex, marriage, divorce and annulments.

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

**WEDNESDAYS
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**SEPTEMBER 2023
THROUGH MAY 2024**



To Register, email HealingDivorceMinistry@gmail.com

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Grandparents are cherished members of our family. They bring gifts of wisdom, experience, and love, and share with us their life of faith. We thank God for their example and ask that he bless them with happiness and good health.

—From Blessing of Grandparents cited in U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Prayers on the USCCB website

On July 26 we celebrate the feasts of St. Joachim and St. Anne, Mary's parents and Jesus' grandparents. The Sunday before their feast day, July 23, is designated by Pope Francis as the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. This year's theme is from the gospel of St. Luke, "His mercy is from age to age."

The Pope wants to connect the generations, as the celebrations for World Youth Day will follow August 1-6 in Lisbon. Pope Francis wants us to also overcome our "throwaway culture." He encourages dialogue between the young and our seniors who have much wisdom to share. He also encourages both groups to learn from each other and pray for each other.

My granddad on my dad's side died young, so my grandma raised four kids on her own. My dad said one of the things his mom did to help the family was to do laundry for the local college students. What I fondly remember about my grandma was she canned tasty dill pickles and made great sugar cookies. She was also proud of her Catholic faith, and when we visited from out of state, we went to Mass at St. Joseph's. Throughout the years I treasured that my grandma took the time to write me nice letters and also remembered my birthday with a nice card and a little cash. As I grew older, I learned to truly appreciate these things more and more.

At the St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) society, we value serving seniors in need. We also enjoy having seniors and grandparents serve as vital members of our chapter. For more information on our local Nativity of Our Lord St. Vincent de Paul chapter, see our Flocknote service at NOOL.FLOCKNOTE.COM/SVDP for meeting times and updates.

**NATIVITY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
SECOND ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SAT, AUG 19, 2023

**EAGLE TRACE GOLF COURSE
1200 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE
BROOMFIELD, CO 80020**



Scan to register



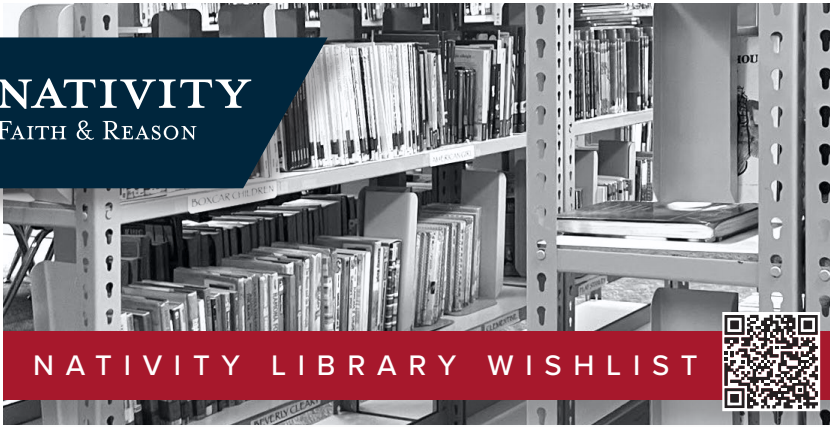
The event is limited to 144 attendees. All proceeds to benefit the Knights of Columbus charities and college scholarships open to children of Nativity. More info and registration:

knights-of-columbus-golf-tournament-copy.cheddarup.com



NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON

WWW.SCHOOL.NOOL.US



NATIVITY LIBRARY WISHLIST



OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEEDS NEW BOOKS!

You can help to stock the shelves by purchasing books from the **Nativity Amazon library wish list**. The wish list link can be accessed by scanning the QR code above or by locating the link on the school website at the top of the screen.

Our new librarian, Dr. Lauren Bergier, is working hard to create a functional library filled with good books, including:

- auditing and weeding inventory
- adding an online catalogue system
- updating the space

In their library studies with Dr. Bergier, students will learn how to **research, locate, and check out books**, will gather for readalouds, and will absolutely love library time, if they don't already!



MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER NEEDED

DESCRIPTION

We're excited to announce that Nativity: Faith & Reason is seeking a Middle School Science Teacher for the 2023-2024 academic year. This position serves 6th, 7th and 8th grade and has a curriculum that covers basic biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics.

REQUIREMENTS

Because the teacher first teaches by example, we expect our teachers to have a vibrant faith life, to attend Mass weekly, and to model prayer for our students. You are expected to be an expert in the content you teach, be able to plan a year long course in each subject using the Archdiocese standards, and implement it using core instructional practices. Ideally, you have a degree or certification in Education and Science and come with at least 1 year teaching experience. We understand that good teachers can come from diverse professional backgrounds and value the wisdom that this brings to a teacher. Yet, an education formation is essential for effective teaching. All of our teachers are expected to hold a professional teaching license or credential. If you do not have one, the Archdiocese of Denver offers an alternative credentialing program that you must enroll in after signing your contract.

FULL JOB DESCRIPTION:

www.school.nool.us/job-openings



SPREAD THE WORD! 2023-2024 ENROLLMENT IS OPEN!

We are still accepting new students for the 2023-2024 School Year until the end of the summer. Please share this news around! With the new classes added over the last two years, we have room to grow. Please share with your friends, family, and neighbors who are looking for a high-quality education rooted in Catholic values.

Nativity: Faith & Reason is the primary ministry of our parish. Serving students in preschool, elementary, and middle school, Nativity: Faith & Reason proposes the fullness of faith within an integrated curriculum, striving for academic, spiritual, artistic, and athletic excellence.

COME & SEE!



school.nool.us/enroll

**CALL TODAY
303-466-4177**

With questions about admission or to schedule a tour, contact **Shannon Spinuzzi**
s.spinuzzi@nool.us

Our school is built on the pillars of Faith & Reason, following the guidance of St. John Paul II expressed in the Encyclical Letter, *FIDES ET RATIO*:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."

A GREAT THING TO SHARE: RECOGNIZING THAT EACH CHILD IS CALLED BY GOD TO BE A SAINT FOR TODAY

FROM LAST JUNE'S HOME BASED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)
PROGRAM FOR NATIVITY FAMILY PRESCHOOLERS



In the month of June, 18 preschoolers and their families met weekly and learned about the saints: St. Martin de Porres and the transforming power of baptism that gives us the vocation and grace to be saints, and St. Therese of Lisieux and God's loving attention to every person, small and big.

Fr. Matteo came and shared about our Blessed Mother who always loves us and listens to us. The glow in the dark rosary craft was especially a hit! And we finished with a beautiful moment recognizing that each child is called by God to be a saint for today. What a blessing!!!

Rachel



WE DO NOT CHOOSE OUR VOCATION, GOD GIVES IT TO US



”
ONE CANNOT EXPERIENCE ANYTHING BUT GENUINE JOY, NOR CAN ONE DO ANYTHING BUT SHARE IT PASSIONATELY WITH FRIENDS, WHEN YOU RESPOND FOR LIFE TO THE CALL THAT CHRIST HAS HAD THE GRACE TO ADDRESS TO EACH OF YOU.

THE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE SENT BY DAVIDE PROSPERI, PRESIDENT OF THE FRATERNITY OF COMMUNION AND LIBERATION, TO THE PRIESTLY AND DIACONAL ORDINANDS OF THE ST. CHARLES BORROMEO FRATERNITY ON JUNE 24, 2023

To Fr. Daniele Bonanni, Fr. Luca De Chiara, Fr. Giorgio Ghigo, Fr. Giacomo Landoni, Fr. Andrew Lee, Fr. Andreas Scholz, and Fr. Philip Stokman.

To Giovanni Barrani, Ignazio Beghi, João Brito, Matteo Pagni, and Martino Zavarise.

Dearest friends,

The entire movement of Communion and Liberation touchingly joins in the celebration you are holding today for your priestly and diaconal ordinations. And it is a great celebration, for one cannot experience anything but genuine joy, nor can one do anything but share it passionately with friends, when you respond for life to the call that Christ has had the Grace to address to each of you.

A call that, by His will, arose and became more and more corresponding within the companionship of the movement and in the journey with the Fraternity of St. Charles, now making you witnesses to the world of a living faith, precisely because it is lived in this communion. A living faith that is eager to return to others the Love received. Missionaries, as Pope Francis recently said, “are those who do everything so that, through their witness, their prayer, their intercession, Jesus might pass by. [...] Faith is born by attraction. One does not become Christian because they are forced by someone, but because they have been touched by love.” (General Audience, June 7, 2023). For this, I warmly thank your families, your friends, your Superiors and the entire Fraternity of St. Charles.

I am sorry I cannot be there in person and I leave as my best wishes the words that Fr. Giussani addressed to a young man who asked him how to understand his mission,

“What is my mission, according to what or—which is the same—how should I serve my destiny? Listen, don’t be concerned about anything, except one thing: to love the ideal. You have to love the ideal in its concreteness, because Ideal, God, Christ, Destiny are all synonymous terms. Love your destiny, ask God to let you clearly know and love your destiny, then throughout the various circumstances God will send you where He needs to send you. It is not up to you to choose your mission. Don’t be afraid, He will point it out to you. We do not choose our vocation, God gives it to us, by letting us find it within a particular context. However, we must love destiny, that is, we must love the reason to live; God demands reason.”

(*Realtà e giovinezza. La sfida*
[*Reality and Youth: The Challenge*],
Bur, Milan 2019, p. 96).





"THIS IS MY BODY"

JESUS AND THE JEWISH ROOTS OF THE EUCHARIST

by Dr. Brant Pitre

THE BREAD OF THE PRESENCE

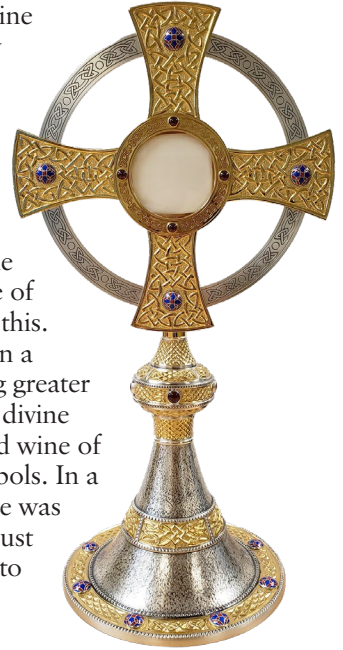
How is it that Jesus, as a first-century Jew, could have ever uttered the words "This is my body" and "This is my blood"? And how is it that the first Christians came to believe that the Eucharist really was the body and blood of Christ?

When we look at this question through ancient Jewish eyes, we can find an answer. If Jesus and the early Jewish Christians saw the Last Supper as the institution of the new Bread of the Presence, then it follows that they did not see it as ordinary bread and wine. It was, rather, the sign and instrument of Jesus' *real* presence. Just as God had been really and truly present to His people in the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Salomon, so now Jesus would be really and truly present to his disciples through the Eucharist. And just as the old Bread of the Presence had been the sign of God's "everlasting covenant," so now the Eucharist would become the perpetual sign of the new covenant, sealed in his blood. And just as the old Bread of the Presence was also the bread of the Face of God, so now the Eucharist would be the Bread of the Face of Christ. Truly, in the

Eucharist, the early Christians could say with Jesus, "Something greater than the Temple is here."

But how are we to understand such a mystery? How can Jesus truly be present under the appearance of bread and wine? How is this even possible? For one thing, as we've already seen with both the manna and the Bread of the Presence, the mystery of Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is closely tied to the mystery of his divine identity. If Jesus was only an earthly Messiah, then one could easily call into question [...] the idea that his blood would be the perpetual sign of the "new covenant." And if Jesus was only a great prophet, one could readily object to the idea that his body would become the new bread of God's presence. None of the prophets ever said anything like this.

However, if Jesus was *more* than a prophet, if he embodied "something greater than the Temple," yes, if he was the divine Son of God, then the new bread and wine of his new covenant were not just symbols. In a word, the new Bread of the Presence was miraculous. After all, it would take just that—a miracle—for bread and wine to be transformed into the body and blood of the Messiah.



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