

## 12th March - Fr. Sylvester cfr *Eucharist*



*Eucharist* is the source and summit of all Christian life. Everything we do derives its power from the Holy Eucharist. Everything we do leads us back to the same Eucharist.

Many years ago, before I was a Franciscan Friar, I was a teacher and a youth worker in Brooklyn. I had to speak to the children about Catholic faith. It wasn't easy. But sometimes I would talk to the children about miracles – miracles that actually happened. I decided to auction a Bona Fide true miracle to one of 5<sup>th</sup> Class groups. I offered them the use of pretend \$1 million each to help them bid for the miracle. The successful bid would win the chance to go to see the miracle – but only one person could win. The bidding started slowly - \$1, \$2 ... Eventually, one little boy was willing to offer everything he had for the chance to be the one and only boy in the class to see the miracle. Just as *going, going, gone* was being called out, a little voice shouted up – *I bid \$7 million*. I asked the little boy how he could bid \$7 million when I had only given the use of \$1 million to each of them. Seven boys pooled their monies and agreed on which of them would go and see the miracle. The plan was to take a video of the event to show the other six. So the lucky boy got his 'admission ticket' to the miracle. It was in a sealed envelope which he opened and reluctantly read out to the class. *The bearer is entitled to admission to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass*. But I bid \$7 million for something I can go to any day I like for free!

The Mass is a miracle that puts us in touch with God's holy power. There are three ways to experience this power.

1) In the Mass itself.

*This is my body. This is my blood.* In the Mass, Jesus gives us his whole body, and even more than that, we recall his betrayal, scourging, agony, speaking his last words, Mary at the foot of the cross, his death and resurrection. All this is present to us in this mystery of our redemption.

2) In Holy Communion

Jesus is physically present in us, not just a part of him, but all of him. We receive Jesus in the Eucharist and then sent out to touch the lives of others.

3) In the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament we have the opportunity to sit in the presence of the Lord – Jesus fully present with us and for us.

We celebrate the Eucharis because it is the source and summit of Christian life. Everything we do in the church is derived from the Eucharist. And now a poem to conclude:

### **The Touch of the Master's Hand – Myra Brooks Welch**

It was battered and scarred,  
And the auctioneer thought it  
hardly worth his while  
To waste his time on the old violin,  
but he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good people", he cried,  
"Who starts the bidding for me?"  
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"  
"Two dollars, who makes it three?"  
"Three dollars once, three dollars twice, going  
for three,"



But, No,  
From the room far back a gray bearded man  
Came forward and picked up the bow,  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin  
And tightening up the strings,  
He played a melody, pure and sweet  
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said "What now am I bid for this old violin?"  
As he held it aloft with its' bow.

"One thousand, one thousand, Do I hear  
two?"  
"Two thousand, Who makes it three?"  
"Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
Going and gone", said he.

The audience cheered,  
But some of them cried,  
"We just don't understand."  
"What changed its' worth?"  
Swift came the reply.  
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."

And many a man with life out of tune  
All battered with bourbon and gin  
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd  
Much like that old violin

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,  
A game and he travels on.  
He is going once, he is going twice,  
He is going and almost gone.

But the Master comes,  
And the foolish crowd never can quite  
understand,  
The worth of a soul and the change that is  
wrought  
By the Touch of the Masters' Hand.

