

49. When does Jesus Christ become present in the Holy Eucharist?

Jesus Christ becomes present in the Holy Eucharist during the Sacrifice of the Mass.

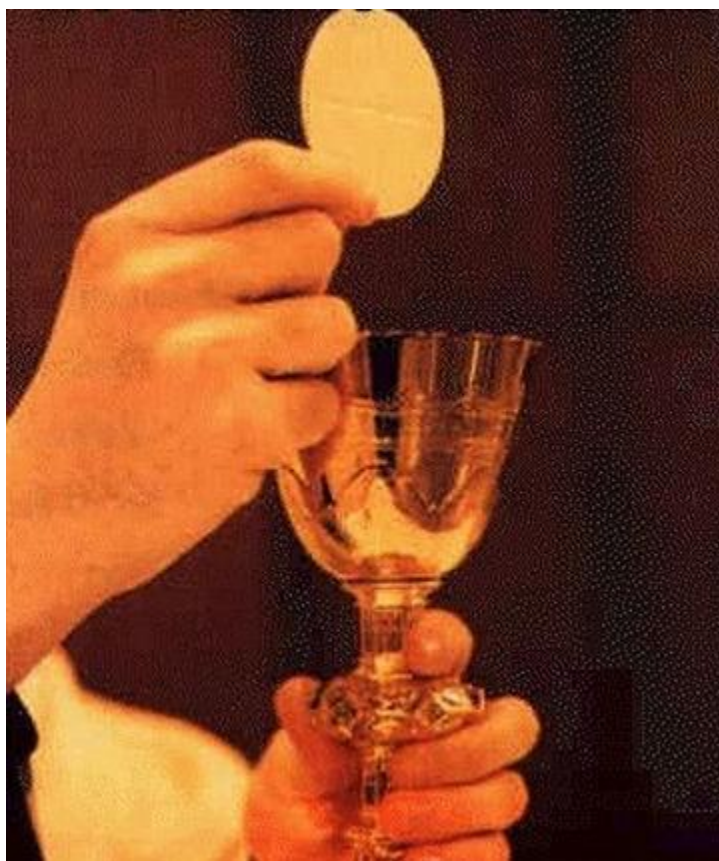
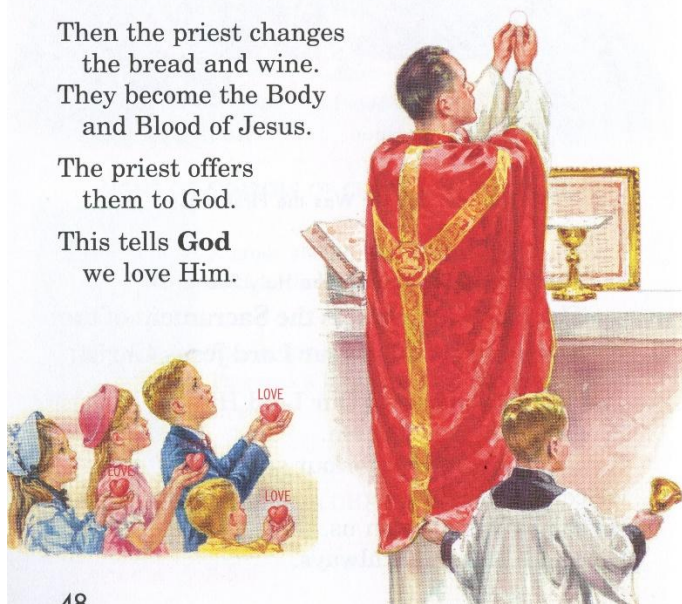
THE MASS IS OUR GIFT TO GOD

We offer bread and wine.
The priest does it for us.
We give our hearts to God.

Then the priest changes
the bread and wine.
They become the Body
and Blood of Jesus.

The priest offers
them to God.

This tells **God**
we love Him.



Saint Therese of the Child Jesus

October 1

WHEN Therese was eight years old she was cured because of the intercession of our Lady.

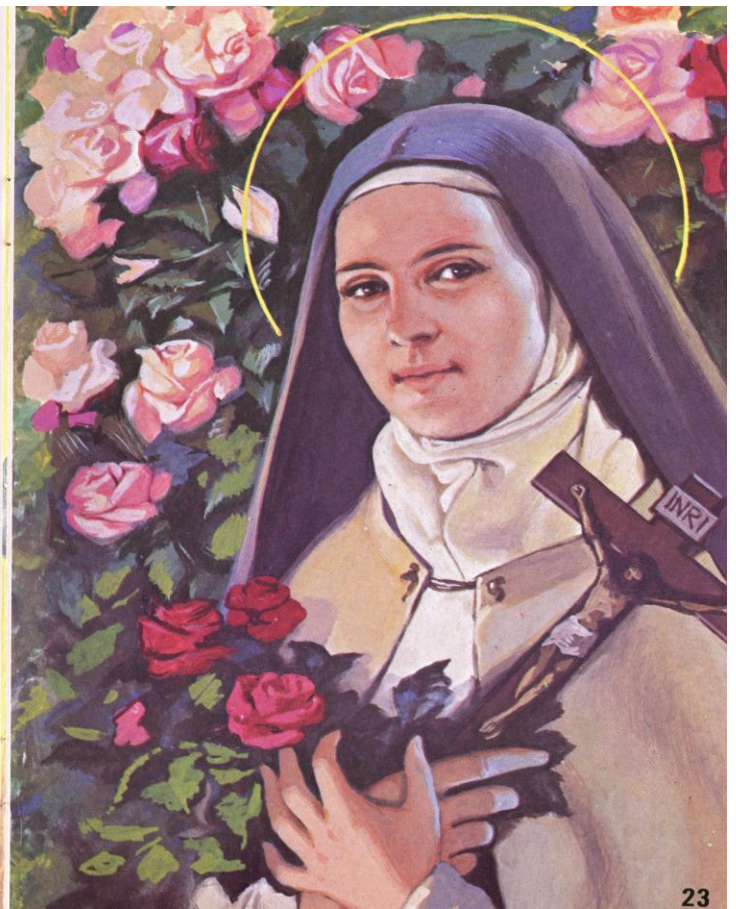
When Therese was still very young she did kind little deeds for everyone. She prepared for her First Holy Communion by making many little sacrifices. She became a very special friend of Jesus. She once said, "From the age of three, I never refused our good God anything. I have never given him anything but love."

Therese entered the Carmelite convent at the age of fifteen. She wanted to save souls, and to help priests save souls, by prayer, sacrifice, and suffering. Her "Little Way" means loving and trusting in God as a child.

When she was dying, Therese pressed her crucifix to her heart and, looking up to heaven she said: "I love Him! My God, I love You!" She was only twenty-four years old when she died in 1897.

St. Therese is the patroness of the foreign missions.

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Meet St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Because of her simple and practical way of life, Thérèse of Lisieux, better known as the "Little Flower," was an extremely popular saint in the first half of the twentieth century. Born in France in 1873 to a very pious family, Marie-Françoise Thérèse Martin became a Carmelite nun at Lisieux, France, at the age of fifteen. She dedicated her life to growing in holiness in a very simple and straightforward way. She meditated on the Sacred Scriptures as well as the writings of famous saints such as Teresa of Avila, Francis de Sales and John of the Cross. She was faithful to the Carmelite Rule and the rhythm of daily life and worship in her religious community. Thérèse believed that authentic holiness could be grasped by anyone. It was not just a pious ideal available only to clergy and religious.

In 1895 she suffered the initial stages of tuberculosis, the disease that eventually caused her death. And in the last two years of her life she remained at Lisieux and wrote a spiritual autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, which became immensely popular and was translated into several languages after her death. She made a well-known promise to spend her life in heaven continuing to do good works on earth, "as long as there were souls to be saved." She said she would let fall a "shower of roses" from heaven.

St. Thérèse died in 1897 at the age of 24. She was canonized in 1925, an amazingly short length of time since her death. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope John Paul II in 1997. Thérèse of Lisieux is the patron saint of the missions, florists, aviators, and the countries France and Russia. Her feast day is October 1.

--ICSC

***O Heart of Jesus, treasure of tenderness,
You Yourself are my happiness, my only hope.
You who know how to charm my tender youth,
Stay near me till the last night.
Lord, to you alone I've given my life,
And all my desires are well-known to you.
It's in your ever-infinite goodness
That I want to lose myself, O Heart of Jesus!***

—from "To the Sacred Heart of Jesus," St. Thérèse of Lisieux



For me, prayer is an upward rising of the heart, it's a simple glance toward heaven, it's a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trials as much as in the midst of joys. In short, it's something big, something great, something supernatural that expands my heart and unites me to Jesus.

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux