

# On Line and On Point

**MARY MOTHER OF JESUS INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

[marymotherofjesus.org](http://marymotherofjesus.org)

## WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

When Jesus spoke the words “This is my Body,” I believe he was speaking not just about the bread right in front of him, but about the whole universe, about every thing that is physical, material, and yet also spirit-filled.

Seeing the Eucharist as a miracle is not really the message at all. I can see why we celebrate it so

often. This message is such a shock to the psyche, such a challenge to our pride and individualism, that it takes a lifetime of practice and much vulnerability for it to sink in—as the pattern of every thing, and not just this thing.

The bread and the wine together are stand-ins for the very elements of the universe, which also enjoy and communicate the incarnate presence. Why did we resist this message so much? Authentically eucharistic churches should have been the first to recognize the corporate, universal, and physical nature of the “Christification” of matter. While Catholics rightly affirm the Real Presence of Jesus in these physical elements of the earth, most do not realize the implications of what they have affirmed. The bread and



wine are largely understood as an exclusive presence, when in fact their full function is to communicate a truly inclusive—and always shocking—presence.

A true believer is eating what he or she is afraid to see and afraid to accept: The universe is the Body of God, both in its essence and in its suffering.

The Eucharist is an encounter of the

heart when we recognize Presence through our own offered presence. In the Eucharist, we move beyond mere words or rational thought and go to that place where we don't talk about the Mystery anymore; we begin to chew on it. **Jesus did not say, “Think about**

**this” or “Stare at this” or even “Worship this.” Instead he said, “Eat this!”**

We must move our knowing to the bodily, cellular, participative, and thus unitive level. We must keep eating and drinking the Mystery, until one day it dawns on us, in an undefended moment, **“My God, I really am what I eat! I also am the Body of Christ.”** Then we can henceforth trust and allow what has been true since the first moment of our

### Mary Mother of Jesus Inclusive Catholic Community Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered community of equals, consisting of women and men, ordained and non-ordained, empowered by the Spirit whose mission is to worship, to serve, to promote compassion, justice, peace and care for creation. Come join us.

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existence. The Eucharist should operate like a stun gun, not just a pretty ceremony. We have dignity and power flowing through us in our bare and naked existence—and everybody else does too, even though most do not know it. A body awareness of this sort is enough to steer and empower our entire faith life.

This is why I must hold to the orthodox belief that there is Real Presence in the bread and wine. For me, if we sacrifice Reality in the basic and universal elements, we end up sacrificing the same Reality in ourselves.—*Richard Rohr*

**OFFERINGS**—We are grateful for your continued contribution toward the growth and development of our community. Thanks so much. Please remember to make your regular donations to MMOJ by sending your check to MMOJ % St. Andrew UCC, 6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota. FL 34238.

**Remember:** MMOJ continues to donate 5% of all received offerings each month to Outreach, which will continue to focus on real issues of food and hunger in our surrounding communities.

**OUTREACH**—The current recipient of our offered financial support is All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota [AFFB] in its task of providing food for hungry and needy families and children. Please be generous with your offerings. When you donate to All Faiths Food Bank, your gift provides meals to children, families and seniors in our community. AFFB is proud to say that 92 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to hunger-relief efforts.

**NOTE**—OLOP featured two book reviews last weekend. We received a number of responses to our offerings. We would feature more if you choose to offer suggestions.

### MOVIE CORNER

Since the sequel to Top Gun hit theaters recently, the original has been streaming on NetFlix. If you've never seen it, it's probably a must see if you're contemplating seeing the new release **Top Gun: Maverick**. But it's really more advisable to have seen them 35 years apart as the story is similar and a little break the rules, cocky, ego driven action hero goes a long way. That being said the incredible flying is real, not computer generated imagery, and well worth seeing on the big screen. I had the pleasure of seeing it at the historic Commodore Theater in downtown Portsmouth, Virginia which is well worth experiencing no matter what the movie. But seeing a Navy movie in a Navy town added a buzz of excitement and pride in the Navy fliers and crews who made the movie possible. —*Beth Ponce*

Send your suggestions for movies to watch, to [ponce.beth@gmail.com](mailto:ponce.beth@gmail.com)

**QUOTE**—"Gratitude is very powerful, a very powerful word, when you say that word, even before you say it . . . because we are at a place where we can program your whole molecular structure to say, 'Today I'm only going to contemplate or entertain thoughts that are inspiring and elevating and anything else I'm going to say no, no, no that thought will put me in a misery ditch and I'm going to be sad, lonely and depressed.'"—*Carlos Santana*

**STAFF**—*Russ Banner, editor; Joan Pesce, Lee Breyer, Anna Davis, text review; Beth Ponce and Dotty Shugrue, features*

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