

The Eucharist: Jesus' Crazy Love



Each saint had a real and personal relationship with Jesus, and some of them left writings that offer incredible insight into what that relationship looked like.

St. Catherine of Siena's relationship with Jesus might take the cake, though: she described the Lord as *pazzo d'amore*, which is Italian for "crazy in love."

And if you really think about it, Jesus said and did some pretty crazy things.

That God would become a tiny baby, born in a stable? Kind of crazy. That He would work miracles for and offer mercy to people who didn't deserve it? Crazy. His passion, death, and resurrection to save each of us, who have sinned against Him? CRAZY.

And perhaps the craziest thing of all is the Eucharist; that the God of the universe comes to us in what looks like bread, but is actually His real, full, living self. He comes so that He can live and work inside of us, so that His heart can be right next to ours.

We need the crazy love of Jesus, and the world needs it, too. And just like St. Catherine of Siena, He wants each of us to be part of the way that everyone finds out about and experiences His crazy love. ***This is the whole reason for the Eucharistic Revival and Eucharistic Pilgrimage: that the crazy love of Jesus given to us through the Eucharist might be experienced and spread throughout the Church and the country and the world!***

The best way for that to happen is for us to receive the Eucharist at Mass, to experience His crazy love just like the saints did, and to let it transform us from the inside out. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist gives us power and strength to live differently, to love others differently, and to invite others to come and experience His love, too.

And another way to bring Jesus' love to the world is for us to love Jesus in the Eucharist in a way that people can see, a way that probably doesn't make sense to them, a way that might even seem... crazy. To bring the Eucharist out of our churches and onto the streets, where we can gaze at Him with love, smile with joy because He loves us, pray together as a community, all so that the world might have a glimpse into the relationship we have with Him. A Eucharistic procession gives us a chance to do exactly that.

St. Catherine of Siena knew the crazy love of Jesus because she experienced it. That same crazy love is offered to each of us as He comes to us in the Eucharist.

Whether it be during this year of Eucharistic revival or 100 years from now, through our personal reception of the Eucharist at Mass and our participation in holy hours and Eucharistic processions, let's let Jesus love us. Let's respond to His invitation to love Him back. And let's bring that love that He has for each of us, and that we have for Him, out onto the streets and sidewalks and everywhere else, that the whole world might know: the God who made you is **crazy** in love with you.

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