

## WHY I BECAME A COMMUNION MINISTER

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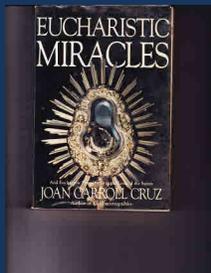
## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS( ECMs) OF HOLY COMMUNION DAY OF REFLECTION BY FR. AMBROSE VAZ.

St. Ignatius, 14 January 2012.

[Background. My encounters with the miraculous Eucharists

Ever since I was baptized in 1994, I have been skeptical that the host( the unleavened bread could be transubstantiated to become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. This was because I was a scientist and doctor. Over a period of 18 years I went on many pilgrimages to the Holy Sites of Christendom, searching for the proof of the Lord's existence. I found this at the Dead Sea Qumran book shop, when I found the book of the Jewish Antiquities , written by Flavius Josephus of the first century , authenticating the existence of our Lord and that he had risen on the third day.

Next, I searched for evidence of the transubstantiation of the host, and read the book of the Eucharistic Miracles



Picture: Book Eucharistic Miracles.

In 2003 on a pilgrimage to Lanciano, Italy ,we saw the first transubstantiated human heart muscle (AB Blood Group) at the Holy Church of St. James. An unbelieving priest in AD 700 , found that the host he had consecrated had turn into a bleeding flesh, and subsequently many miracles were associated with it. Blood group is identical with that found on the Shroud of Turin( which had belonged to an ancient Aramaic sect, which Jesus had belonged.



Picture: Actual photo taken in 2003 showing the human heart muscle in a reliquary at the Altar at St. James Church, Lanciano.

At Santarem, 15 miles from Fatima , I found the second Eucharistic Miracle of the host in 1998, while on a Pilgrimage to Fatima and Santiago de Compostella. The consecrated host had been taken by a woman , who with the assistance of a sorceress was trying to bring back her unfaithful husband . This host bled all the way back along the street , and glowed in a box which she had put it in. Both she and her unfaithful husband were reconciled to God with this experience.



Picture: Miraculous host at Attic tabernacle of the Church of the Holy Miracle, Santarem, Portugal



Picture: Sienna Miraculous Eucharist AD .1330. A priest had removed a consecrated host from the tabernacle and took it to a seriously ill farmer. Instead of putting in a pyx , he put it in pages of his breviary. He realized this error, when on opening the breviary, he found the host was bloody and had melted. In deep remorse he told the Padre of the Monastery of St. Augustine . The miracle is honored by Pope Boniface IX in 1401. Another miracle took place in 1300 when the consecrated host was stolen and later found in the back street still intact. They remain still fresh and fragrant and had not deteriorated.[ One of our pilgrims who was attacked by evil spirits during the night, prayed for an hour before these sacred hosts]

I am saved from fatal bleeding by the body and blood of Christ

At Lawedesy , Aceh, in 2005, I and my four person team had gone to do a site visit after we had repaired the Tsunami damaged schools and church building. I bled severely and lost five pints of blood from severe undiagnosed duodenal ulcers . Without medicines, and chance of rescue because we were deep inside jungle terrain, I was saved by prayers to our Lady, Mother Mary and by God by the blood and body of Christ. Two days later, back in Singapore, Gastroscopy showed that I had six acute duodenal ulcers, which had all stopped bleeding. In Hospital, I could only say " God saved me " to all my specialist doctors and senior nurses. I would always be say " How blessed is he who believes that what God had promised would come true ( Luke 1, 43)".

Six months later when I was invited to serve as a ECM, I willingly said "Yes, I will serve my Lord with great humility, reverence and love." Today , I serve without hesitation the Body and Blood of my beloved Jesus, and the Trinity at weekday and Sunset Masses to all those who come to me , and bring the sacred hosts to those who are grievously ill , or who are in need.]

ECM Day of Recollection & sharings with Fr. Ambrose Vaz.

1. Missa ( Latin ) = Mission or Mass. ( 1, Cor. 11.26 " This means that every time you break this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" .

[Th is the celebration of the death of our Lord, who sacrifices for us, sinful as we are. It is a sacrifice of Love " No greater love a person can have for his friends is to give his life for them "(John 15: 13). Therefore dying for us , is even greater , because we are terrible sinners.

1.Cor.10:14-17 " The cup which we use in the Lord's Supper and for which we give thanks to God hewn we drink from it, we are sharing in the blood of Christ. And the bread we break:when we eat it, we are sharing in the body of Christ. Because there is one loaf of bread, all of though many are one body, for we all share the one body."

2. R for remembrance ( Gk= Amnesis) is remembrance of what is taking place continuously in time , from the beginning to now is the same, making the experience real again.

[The ECM who serves is a role model living out this memory of Christ in his or her life, Therefore Communion is common+ union is a great model of love and sacrifice. It is a hypocrisy if we are not in common union ( communion) with Christ . Because what we are doing is so sacred , we have to live i the life in the same way as Jesus.

ECMs who is called to serve the body and blood of Christ must minister to the people and is a great calling. Ultimately it is a call to mission in life.

Reflection: (i) How sure are we that called you to be a ECM?

(ii) When you are called , do you respond?

Reference Acts 10: 37-38). " You know about the great things that took place beginning in Galilee after John preached the baptism .You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere , doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with Him."

Answer: There would be signs, such as called by the church , and by the Parish priests.

[ In my case, I tracked the many places where there was a history of the Miracle of the Eucharist, first in Lanciano AD 780, in Southern Italy, where a host changed to human heart muscle of AB negative blood group,( same as the Shroud of Turin); to Santarem in Portugal in AD 1300, when the host turned into blood; to Sienna ( lost hosts); and to my own disaster in Lawedesky, Aceh where I nearly bled to death . It changed my life, to doing good, bringing people , the lost to God and to the Catholic Faith at home, with grandchildren, family, friends, work places and in society; and sacrificing time to serve daily at Mass and to be with the Lord; healing all those oppressed by the Devil , by reading the scriptures, praying the Rosary over 24 hrs, and going to the Eucharist daily, to repent from the sins, and to be reconciled with God daily].

from acute duodenal ulcers, and was saved by taking the body and blood of Christ!.. It is a message from God " If you do not believe then I'll show you...Believe and do not doubt anymore!]

### 3. Attitude in service of mission/ humility

These are the goals of servant hood

Romans 12:11 " Work hard, Do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full ofJoy and devotion"

1. Cor.9: 19 " I am free man, nobody's slave ;but I make myself everybody's' slave in order to win many people as possible."

Ephesians 6:6-7 " Do this not only when they are watching you, because you want to gain their approval; but with all your heart do what God wants , as slaves of Christ. Do your work as slaves cheerfully; as though you serve the Lord, and not merely men. Remember the Lord will reward everyone whether slave or free, for the good work that they have done."

Reflection

(i) Do I give up easily?

(ii) Do I serve with a cheerful heart?

(iii) Is my reluctance to serve so that others may serve the way I want?

#### 4. R = Responsibility/Reliability

All of us have been given talents and gifts to heal, to administrate, to build, to write, to teach, but do we use these gifts? If you are a doctor, do you bring your healing powers to heal?

Acts 3:6 " I give you what I have , but I give you no money can buy. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I order you to get up and walk "

Matt.24: 42-46; 24:42-47)"How happy the servant is if his Master finds him doing this when he comes home! Indeed I tell you the master will put that servant in charge of all his property."

Reliability is constancy to be a servant of the Lord. This is though an active prayer life which is essential. Jesus prayed. He went up the hills alone, in the morning , afternoon , and alone. Jesus prays for the healing of the crippled and lame men, those possessed of evil spirits.

Reflection

(i) How am I using the gifts which God has blessed me with?

Acts 3:6. " In the name of Jesus , stand up and walk"

#### 5.V= Visibility

Jesus said;

(i) ( Matt. 5: 16. " In the same way your light must shine before people , so that they will see the good things you do and praise your father in heaven"

"Are you afraid of me and my works ?" If anyone declares publicly that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in heaven. But if anyone rejects me publicly, I will reject him publicly before my Father in Heaven."

(ii) Luke " Be ready, for whatever comes dressed for action and with your lamps lit, like servants who are waiting for their master to come to the wedding feast. When he comes and knocks, they will open the door for him at once. How happy the Master finds his servants awake and ready when he returns

(iii) Luke (9: 13): " You give them something to eat"

(iv) James 1: 22) " Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead put it into practice".

Reflection:

(i) Am I an active or passive person?

(ii) Is my service put on hold?

(iii) Am I cause for others slowing down?

Hebrews 3:13 " Instead ,in order that none of you be deceived by sin and become stubborn, you must help one another every day as long as the word."

## 6. Thanksgiving

Whatever you do in word or deeds, give thanks to God. It's an attitude of humility .

Psalm 136" Give thanks to God for he is good

Phil. 1:3 " I thank my God for you every time I think of you.

Reflections:

(i) To what extent am I in Common union with Christ in his mission of love and service?

(ii) What features of servant hood is reflected in my mission as a ECM?