



Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter by Timothy P. O'Malley

This book takes up the doctrine of real presence and transubstantiation as requiring both knowing and loving. In modern language, these two doctrines are used interchangeably, yet they are two interrelated doctrines linked to the substantial presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Meditating on these doctrines, one discovers the personal and thus healing presence of Jesus Christ in human history. Professing faith in Christ's Eucharistic presence is not the result of a philosophical exercise but comes about through worshipping the hidden God

under the species of bread and wine. These doctrines have implications for understanding who Jesus Christ is, the pedagogy by which God saves men and women through the Church, and how members of Christ's Body may pursue holiness as creatures who are healed by eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ. In these two doctrines, we see how the prayerful contemplation of doctrine offers to us a way of life grounded in practice and how practice bears fruit in the development of doctrine. This book makes the argument over the course of five chapters....

This book was written during the period of quarantine for COVID-19, this quarantine included the cancellation of public Masses throughout the United States. Churches once full of communicants for a Sunday Mass were now empty except for a priest, an altar server, and a cantor. Easter came and went without communion. Among the faithful, there was a desire for the Eucharistic life that has not been felt for some time. Still, the Eucharistic Lord did not leave his children orphans. In the middle of this pandemic, Pope Francis stood in the empty piazza of St. Peter's Basilica at dusk during a steady rainstorm, lifted up a monstrance that held the Eucharistic species, and blessed the city of Rome and the entire world. It was a city and a world haunted by the shadow of death. Men and women were dying alone in hospitals in Rome, Milan and New York City. Social distancing meant that we were cut off from one another, no longer able to see loved ones face to face. Weddings and funerals were cancelled. Time seemed to stop. There was death and darkness. And yet, with the raising of that monstrance on a bleak Friday in Rome, we recognized the feebleness of our senses. It seemed impossible, but even now in this valley of tears the Lord was present... He was present in our families, in the sick and dying, and in health-care workers sacrificing their personal well-being and he remained substantially present in tabernacles in parishes throughout the world.

The substantial presence of Christ in what looks like bread and wine is an invitation for each of us to assume a posture of total gratitude, God gives not just bread and wine but his very flesh and blood. We receive this gift, recognizing anew the dignity that all of creation possesses. The Eucharistic doctrines of real presence and transubstantiation demand of each of us self-knowledge, the poverty of confessing that we are not God. And yet in adoring the presence of the God who is God, we do not leave behind our neighbor. Love is received so that love may be given. All who receive and are devoted to the Eucharist would be drawn to read this book. (From the Website: *Profiles in Catholicism*, October 8, 2021)

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Rev. Dr. Julius Abuh

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Where: St. Joseph The Worker Catholic Church
Parish Hall, 649 Old Tellico Hwy N.
Madisonville, TN 37354

Time: 5:30 PM after Saturday Vigil Mass

This event will include a catered buffet dinner (*chicken or beef*)

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