



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month's *Via Fidelis* activity is to "Read about eucharistic miracles. Look into St. Carlo Acutis' collection." As Catholics, we believe in the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, a fact that our diocese particularly emphasized leading up to *Via Fidelis* with our statewide Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in 2024.

On the night of the Last Supper, Christ said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day" (Jn 6:54). The institution of the Eucharist was a sacrificial and merciful act. As we gaze up at the Eucharist during the act of consecration in Mass, we are looking upon our victorious savior, the Paschal lamb who gave himself selflessly unto death for our redemption.

To clarify and affirm the Real Presence, the Church elucidated the term "transubstantiation" during the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), which was later affirmed by the Council of Trent (1545-1563). That long, and tricky to pronounce, word means that even though the Eucharist still takes on the *appearance* of bread and wine, it actually changes into Christ's own body and blood that he shed on the cross. This is why we call it the "host," from the Latin *hostia*, or victim.

On occasion, the physical features of Christ's body manifest themselves in eucharistic miracles. There are many famous examples where the Eucharist bleeds or even when an image of Christ's face appears. These events continue, even today, and our recently canonized St. Carlo Acutis documented as many eucharistic miracles as he could. You can view and study his collection at the website he created, miracolieucaaristici.org.

As you learn more about these miracles with your friends and family this month, I encourage you to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as often as you can. When we receive the Eucharist, we unify ourselves with him and grow in the life of grace that he promises to his faithful children.

"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven" (St. Carlo Acutis).
In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston