

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

June 2011 to June 2012

In the outside Garden of Mercy, located behind our Parish Center, we have 12 Stations of the Holy Eucharist (6 on either side of the altar). They teach us about the Eucharist, starting with the Old Testament and ending with the New Testament. There are pamphlets in the rack on the left side of the entrance as you enter the Garden that explain what each station means. It is a wonderful way to pray and mediate on the Holy Eucharist, God fulfilling His promise that He would be with us everyday until the end of time. Therefore, we will put one station of the Holy Eucharist in the bulletin over the next 12 months.

1st Station of the Holy Eucharist

MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF SALEM: FORESHADOWING OF A EUCHARISTIC PRIESTHOOD

"The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." (Psalm 110:4)

Jesus, King of Peace, Your priesthood was foreshadowed by the priesthood of Melchizedek. Like him, You made an offering of bread and wine, but the bread and wine You offered to the Father was transubstantiated into Your own Flesh and Blood. You Yourself were both the Priest and the Victim. Plant within our hearts a deep respect and love for all priests. Following Abraham's example when he sought the blessing of Melchizedek, grant us the humility ever to seek the blessing of Your ordained ministers, for it is from their hands that we are fed with the Food of Everlasting Life.

*Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us!*

A Eucharistic Miracle

Involving Saint Anthony of Padua

During the 13th century St. Anthony of Padua was reported to have converted a hardened heretic through a rather unique contest. The heretic, by the name of Bononillo, was unmoved by the reasoning of the "hammer of heretics," as St. Anthony was called. Bononillo was as stubborn as the mule that stood beside him.

Eyeing the mule, Anthony made an offer to Bononillo. He asked him whether he would give up his heresy if the mule were to bow down and adore its Creator present in the Blessed Sacrament. The heretic answered he would, provided he could lay down certain conditions: for two days the mule was not to be fed, and on the third day it was to be led into the public square. On one side of the square would be placed a tempting pile of fresh feed, on the opposite side Anthony could stand with what Bononillo contemptuously called the "body of Christ." Anthony agreed, but in all humility made one condition. If the animal did not kneel before the Blessed Sacrament, his sins alone were to be blamed.

The day arrived for this strange contest and the square was crowded with people. When the derisive Bononillo arrived with his half-starved mule, he was fully confident that his mule had sense and appetite enough to go after the feed. But he was wrong. Anthony had implored his Lord in the intervening two days for the soul of this heretic. God did not let his faithful servant down. When turned loose, the mule without the least hesitation advanced towards Anthony and knelt in an attitude of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. With much emotion and contrition the heretic too fell on his knees and gave up his heresy. As wonderful as these miracles are the greatest of all, transubstantiation, has to be viewed with the eyes of faith.