# ALL-THINGS-MARIAN-03-28-24

**Intro:** [00:00:00] All Things Marian, a weekly program of information, research, and experience about the Virgin Mary. Sponsored by the International Marian Research Institute of the University of Dayton. Now your host, Michele Foley.

**Michele Foley:** Thank you, Claire. Thank you, Radio Maria, for this beautiful introduction to our new program, All Things [00:01:00] Marian. We greet you this holy week of 2024. Today, since it's Thursday, we broadcast on Holy Thursday, and hope that you will find peace and an uplifting to your spirit during this Holy Week, particularly, because we pray for you every day.

It's a privilege to be here. On Radio Maria with this new program, All Things Marian, and today our guest is a colleague and a friend, dear Sister Jean Frisk of the Sisters of Schoenstatt of Mary. Sister and I will be talking about Mary within Easter. So welcome, Sister, and thank you so much for being with us today.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Thank you very much, Michele. I was also wondering how this new program would begin. Father Roten [00:02:00] wrote me an email and said, please talk about Mary and the Eucharist, and the Eucharist. So I thought, alright, so I started looking and thinking, but then I didn't find, uh, a link back to your email. I don't know why, so I must have lost some emails.

**Michele Foley:** Well, I will, I will email you then,

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** uh, after

**Michele Foley:** the program is over.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Right. Please do that so that I have your email fresh and top up.

**Michele Foley:** Good,

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** good, good, good.

**Michele Foley:** So how's the weather up where you are in Wisconsin?

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** We have the most unusual winter you've ever had, I mean, we've ever had. Usually it's cold, and it's snowy, and it's got lots of snow.

We've hardly had any snow. And we have lots of cold, but it's an amazing situation. So we have bright, bright sunshine. For instance, this day. Today and the little bit of snow we had were about three inches. It's almost all melted off now. So we're all looking at the [00:03:00] weather and saying well, what will this summer be like?

I I hear you because it's

**Michele Foley:** kind of like that here in the in Dayton, Ohio where we are so um, you know I've been giving the Eucharist a lot of thought and Eucharist, as you well know, means celebration and thanksgiving. And that's what we do every time we go to our dear liturgy. So, what would you like to talk about today with Mary and the Eucharist during the Easter season?

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Well, it's obvious that it's one of the most beautiful things that Jesus gave us on Holy Thursday and at the Last Supper when Jesus talks to the apostles about his being and his future. You know, basically he's talking about what things will be like, and he talks about how, and they don't quite understand, they don't quite [00:04:00] understand, and he's explaining his life, and he's explaining his relationship to the Father in most beautiful, beautiful ways.

And then he also talks about the Eucharist. I mean, he breaks the bread. This is the beautiful sign of his presence, breaking the bread. And so if anyone attends a Catholic Mass, there is a point where the priest breaks the host. And then later on when he shows us the host, lifts it up, he kind of puts it together again, so you might not even notice that it has been broken.

And when Jesus does that, he also says, This is my body. Then he has broken the host then he takes the cup and he says this is my blood. Now, how could they ever think of this? What what is what is that the dear apostles? They heard so much from him. They lived with him and he was always a mystery he was always a mystery to them, but they loved him dearly because he in turn loved them dearly [00:05:00] and this is a beautiful thing.

So what does it mean for us when we think of the Eucharist and Jesus? It's His gift. It's His final great gift. He has healed. He has given. He's given sight to the blind. He's healed people like the woman that was menstruating for so many years and couldn't stop and couldn't stop. He healed her. There's so many little stories that we know.

And then, what do we have for after Jesus dies, and he, he, uh, you know, he he's not there, but two of the disciples are walking along the road and someone comes up behind them and says, well, what is it you're talking about? And then the two men talk about well, haven't you heard? And then the Great Preacher, the Preacher and they killed him, and then they tell what's going on, and then they stop, it's evening, and it's like [00:06:00] they want to go on again, and he shows, Jesus shows that he's going to go on, and they, they came, no, stay with us, stay with us, it's, it's almost night now, stay with us, and, and then when they're at supper together, he breaks the bread again, and it's the sign, and, He breaks the bread, and the way that he does it, the Apostles know.

Then he disappears. Jesus has disappeared. And those dear Apostles, those aren't Apostles, they're followers, they're disciples, if you will. And they go back to Jerusalem, and they said, we've seen the Lord, we've seen him, he's alive. And then how do they recognize? Because we recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

So this is the great, great mystery that Jesus gave his apostles, gave us people, and gave us from the very beginning. [00:07:00] So when people wonder what on earth these Catholics are all about, when they eat this bread, or they go up there and they talk about, this is my body, or you can't eat a body, and so on and so forth. It's, they have to get into the beautiful mystery that Jesus did indeed give us this beautiful sacred food for our body, for our soul, for our well being, and to understand and know Him and the Father.

And I'm going on and on, but it is really true that it's very difficult for people to understand the mystery of the Eucharist.

**Michele Foley:** It is, and yet, if you think about it, uh, we, we, maybe it's because we understand the, the act of being in communion or in community rather with our, our family and our friends as we sit around the table eating, whether it's breakfast or lunch or dinner, [00:08:00] there's something that as, as our family does, we don't have any television on.

We may have music in the background. We are not on our phones or looking at emails. We're, that's our time to face each other and to share our day or our morning or whatever. So. If we can think about that, take a little step further that every time we, we, I'm, I'm sure you and your, your sisters and community there have talked about past Thanksgivings and Christmases and Easters where the, the, the days were so absolutely gorgeous.

Or maybe you had, um, snow that day or sleet or rain. It was a day that for, for tremendous community and. But with Jesus goes beyond, beyond that. He was showing us that he will be with us. So yes, [00:09:00] absolutely. It's, it is, it's a mystery, but I think as we kind of ruminate on it or as Father Thompson, Father Thomas Thompson says, Let us reflect on this.

He always used to say that. Let us reflect. And, and in doing so, it becomes more and more real as we, as we continue on. So it's beautiful and you didn't go on at all. It was necessary, I think, to show how we believe in our Lord's rising and continuing to be with us.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** So when Father Roten asked, wrote to me and asked me to speak, he said, I would like you to speak about Mary and the Eucharist about the Eucharist and Mary.

**Michele Foley:** And

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** what is the relationship there? And how? So that is what. You know, you start, start thinking about it and then you think, Well, now, wait a minute. This is all [00:10:00] about Jesus. How does Mary fit in there?

**Michele Foley:** So, I think

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** this is part of our mystery, too. How do we see Mary? In Mary's mysterious presence in the Eucharist, and so I'll let you begin on this little topic.

Are you there? Oh, yes, I was going to say are you there? Yes, I'm sorry. We're we're far away aren't we? Here upper, Wisconsin. Well actually, I found on the web, wonderful materials, if people go have the web, I mean, you have your, your radios, probably now, there's a beautiful material on the web, exactly for this year, because the Catholic Church in the United States, would like to have a kind of a Eucharistic renewal, not a kind of, they want to have a Eucharistic renewal, that people understand the Eucharist and begin to [00:11:00] appreciate and love the Eucharist.

And so on the web we have here, the Eucharistic Ministry and Mary's Mysterious Presence. There are wonderful articles exactly on that. So it says, why is the church interested in this, is the church Marian or, what does that mean, the church is Marian? Isn't it about Jesus Christ? Well then we have to go back to the essence.

Who brought us Jesus? Who said yes and brought us Jesus? It was Mary. And Mary bore the Son of God in her womb for the length of her pregnancy. She She had the Word of God, the Person of God within her, and this is why for Catholics abortion is so horrible. Because when we think of life, the word, the sacredness, the sacredness of a woman bearing a [00:12:00] child, the beauty of a child being, coming into the world, we can hardly stand it to think of aborting a baby

in the reality of this horrible situation we get ourselves into. So it is really true that we can say the Church is Marian, not only for the mystery of the Incarnation, but also because Mary is indeed the one who said yes to God and brought him to this world, allowed him to come to this world through her.

I often think, well, what if she had said no? Well, it's almost unthinkable that she said no, would have said no, but then maybe God would have found somebody else. But she was free in her answer to the angel. And very definitely then, it's beautiful to think of it now, if Jesus is [00:13:00] present to us here in the Eucharist, is Mary also somehow part of that?

And this is part of the interesting thing for us to discuss today. How is, how can Mary be part of this Eucharistic presence today? Many theologians have actually talked about that in different documents that we have. The church also has a beautiful document about that. John Paul II gave us a beautiful document on exactly this.

When you think of it at the church is Marian, not only for the mystery of the Incarnation, but because in, we're in Nazareth Mary’s the mother of Christ, the word of God, but also because of the mystery of her being, of her compassion. She shares everything with the Lord. She stands at the foot of the cross.

She is entrusted to the apostle John by her divine son. The church is, so to say, born [00:14:00] in the wounded heart of Jesus and of Mary. It can be said that Mariology is part of Ecclesiology insofar as Mary is the one who helps the church come to life as church. Oh, this is also something so mysterious and so amazing.

When you think of it, there's so many little movies, if you will, or storytellings of how when Jesus rose from the dead, Mary Magdalene and others saw Jesus and they ran to tell the apostles. We don't hear anything about Mary at that point. We don't hear that Mary was visited by Jesus. There are poets and there are theologians who like to speculate

on that. What did Mary do after Jesus’ death? Where did she go? What did Jesus do [00:15:00] when he first rose from the dead? Where did he go? It's very fascinating. It's very thought provoking. Naturally, we do not have written proof of these things. But I know, uh, one theologian who mischievously, if you want to say it that way, said, Well, Jesus needed to go somewhere to get a new dress, meaning a new garment.

And then he went to his mother first and foremost to get a new garment.

**Michele Foley:** Oh, that's beautiful.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** That could be. We don't know that, but we can think about it and we can say, well, yes, Jesus rose from the dead and he left the shroud there. He left it in the tomb. That's one reason we know that he rose. And so that time between.

Was he with his mother? Was he part of, was she part of all of that? And what incredible [00:16:00] joy, at the same time, I can almost imagine her dear, his dear mother, bathing his wounds, taking the stains away from him. And have, so to say, having him ready to go and see the Apostles. And how does he come to the Apostles?

The door is locked, but he comes. And he's there. This is part of the incredible part of our faith that we hardly can grasp, can hardly hold on to. When we hear the Gospel and we hear the stories of Jesus, He's there, and He's going from place to place. And He's not flying from one place to the other and appearing suddenly.

He's walking with His Apostles. He's there. But now after His death? In part of his resurrection, now he is mystically there. Now he comes, [00:17:00] and perhaps the very person, we don't know, but we may speculate that his first visit was to his mother. Now, we think of Mary, how she participates in the redemption at all.

She's very essential to the story of the redemption. When you think of this, when she gives him birth, she says yes. She raises this little boy with St. Joseph, of course, in the family. Then he goes, and the very first miracle he works, of course, is changing the water into wine. I mean, that is already overwhelming.

Where did he get, where did she get, where did the bridegroom get this wonderful wine? And there we see Jesus, then, from there, working various kinds of miracles, special miracles. And Mary got the, so to say, in a very plain way, Mary got the ball rolling. [00:18:00] You know, we can really say so, and think of her that way, and she works with him, she is there, she does get worried at one point, and she wants to come and get him and take him home, but he says then, who is my mother?

The one who does the will of God, the one who is with me, and does the will of God, is mother and brother and sister to me. I think it would be beautiful if I could hear a little bit from you now, Michele, what you think about these things.

**Michele Foley:** Well, yes, I'm, we're very much, you and I are very much in tune about how we view things and the, the, the Eucharist has always been something so special because it is the, the, um, pinnacle of, of the liturgy, of the mass.

And I, I tend to, to believe that as many of us are, are [00:19:00] obligated to do, but it's no obligation to know that Jesus is there and Jesus is, is with us. We are fortunate enough to be in a place to receive communion that he is within us and that's a very powerful thought process to have with you as you walk back to your seat and then go out and go home and, and be

in your, in your community for the week, and, uh, I think about Jesus coming, I think he came first to his mother, too, in a, in a different way, because she was so uniquely tied to him, as many mothers are, they're, they never give up being a mother. We, we never have, a broken, even if we're not speaking to our children, and fortunately [00:20:00] we are, even if you're not speaking to your children, you are with them and

the experience of being with them when they're sick and when they're joyful. It, I, I always think of Our Lady and think of her in that way and how the courage the woman had and has to, to continue with him as he was, just so terribly tortured and, and then crucified and we have opportunities in the community where we can look at, um, various well done, I mean, they're not theologically, you know, any, they're not boring their mute the movies, the robe, and, um, you know, the crucifixion, we have other movies that are on television or accessible to us.

And. We can really immerse ourselves in [00:21:00] this thought process and make it our own to give us courage, to give us strength, to give us joy as we move through our day and our week. So it's, it's, um, as a child, I think we all remember our First Communion and how wonderful that was and maybe we can this week think back to our First Communion and what a beautiful thing it was and how we were taught that Jesus is with us in the Eucharist.

It's so much, um, I'm glad that we're in a Eucharistic renewal. I really am. We're looking forward to what, um, the, uh, Eucharistic Congress will have to say in July, I think it's July, and, uh, uh, have sharing of, of those thoughts and things there. You know that we on this [00:22:00] program will have several, several presenters who will talk to us about Mary and the Eucharist and their research and their, their findings about, and their, really, um, I, I think their own journeys with, with Mary and the Eucharist.

You can't have one without the other, I don't think, in a lot of ways. And, uh, I don't put Mary on the same level as the, the Holy Trinity, but this woman was so unique to, to, it's such a gift, let's not overuse the word unique, such a gift to us. And, uh, I can never really think of picture Eve, you know, the mother of mankind, but I, I can, I can relate to Mary and I, you know, she was a real person and we have [00:23:00] historical facts about her life and certainly our references to her and the gospels and, um, proof that she was, or Jesus was born of a woman from, um, St.

Paul. So, we, we have many things that we can look toward. And this is a good time, too, don't you think, sister? For people who may never have, or may very seldom, let's put it that way, um, um, looked at the Bible and looked at the Gospels. This would be a good time, if you have access to the web, you could access, um, the, the Gospels and see where Mary was, was mentioned, uh, first in Luke and then, uh, in, uh, you know, go through with, uh, St.

Mark and St. Matthew and, and John too. So what would you think about that? Oh, of course,

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** that would be [00:24:00] perfect if one can. In fact, some of the beautiful things I came across now on the web are just really amazing. And I thought, oh my goodness, so they're just more than I would ever have thought. And one of the things that it comes to is Mary, throughout her life at Christ's side, is not only there on Calvary, but she has her own, sacrificial dimension on this.

So she shares the suffering of Christ. She shares when she brought the little child to the world, into the world, and she brought him to the temple. And she hears he's going to be, you know, it's not going to be an easy life for him. Dear Jesus, as she hears him in the temple, Simeon in the temple talking to her, a sword would pierce her heart.

My goodness, he will be a sign of contradiction. What would a mother think? How would they think? Oh my, and still it was this way, and yet it is all filled with an incredible, [00:25:00] everlasting, powerful love, a love for humanity, for all of us. Jesus wants to redeem all of us. He wants to bring us to an eternal dimension, eternal dimension of our lives.

We're not just dead in the grave, down in the the dirt. I love archaeology and I love to watch or read things about their discoveries, but it's much more than just our bones and that we have a life to live forever and ever and ever if we really take it seriously to make it a life of love like the holy family did, like the saints throughout the ages did.

So we hear from all of these, the words that are just incredible. For instance, right now, you know, we think of the Last Supper coming up. Today is the Last Supper. [00:26:00] We here, as a community, we really like to celebrate this day in a special way, toward evening, because then we, you know, sort of say imitate the Last Supper.

We don't do anything spectacular, but it is in there. It's like a spiritual communion of desire. And, and we think of it, when you think of what happened at the Last Supper, Mary must have heard this from Peter, John, James, and the other Apostles, the words spoken at the Last Supper. This is my body. And how she would wonder too, how is, how is this possible?

But she had conceived this child in her womb. She knew him as a little fetus, as a little one who kicked, and kicked with joy when met John, John the Baptist. In his, those two little babies, they knew that they were meeting each other for the first time. I always loved that scene in the Bible where they [00:27:00] talk about that and how Mary and Elizabeth rejoice.

This is in remembrance of me, the Lord says. And then, as we think of it in terms of the Eucharist in the church, why can't we then believe and share and want to share it all the time? Hmm? I do know of people who think, I have even actually seen this, met someone who didn't want to go to communion, was afraid to go to communion.

He was afraid of going to communion because he said, I'm a sinner. So that means he didn't really believe in the Eucharist. And Confession. He didn't believe in this Sacrament of Reconciliation, because why, he would sit there Sunday after Sunday, and then we just would say hello to him, and then one day I just said, well, come on, join us at the table.

No, no, no, no, no, no, he wouldn't do that. So we have to think in [00:28:00] terms, now we're broadcasting over the radio, we have no idea if anyone is listening to us, but we think, Jesus gave himself for us to make use of, meaning, come to him, come and he will strengthen you. Come and he will make you morally stronger.

He will help you in all your troubles. If we just really talk to the Lord, be with the Lord, walk with the Lord, and really realize that this is my body, and my body meant, is for the salvation of the world. It's a really incredibly beautiful thing to think of this history of the Catholic Church and people say, Oh, you know, that this ridiculous, this stuff is not true.

It's all baloney. It's all myth. It's not at all. It's centuries. Centuries of belief, centuries of working, and Our Blessed Mother's been part of it all along. She's been absolutely part of this from the beginning to the end [00:29:00] that she has. And I think that one of the beautiful things is, uh, this, when they, all the bishops were brought together and were supposed to argue about this, was Jesus God or not, and what, what was Mary then?

Was Mary a mother of God? Is that possible? And that is actually what they did realize that was the first dogma that we have about Mary. She is the mother of God.

**Michele Foley:** Well, we need to take our break now, Sister. So, let us continue our reflections and sharing about Mary. Jesus in the Eucharist and Mary in the Eucharist after the break.

Thank you everyone who is listening, no matter where you are or what you are doing. Thank you. Radio Maria, a Catholic voice in your home. God bless you. See you on the other side of the break,[00:30:00]

**Music:** Immaculate Mary all praises we sing, you regin now in splendor with.

Jesus, our King. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave Maria.

In heaven, the blessed, your [00:31:00] glory proclaim. On earth we your children invoke your sweet name. Ave, Ave, Ave Maria. Ave, Ave Maria. We pray for the church, our true mother on earth and beg you to watch o'er the land of our birth. [00:32:00]

You are listening to Radio Maria, a Catholic voice in your home. We now return to our program, All Things Marian, brought to you by the International Marian Research Institute of the University of Dayton.

**Michele Foley:** Hello, everyone, and welcome back to our program, All Things Marian, today on Holy Thursday, 2024. Our presenter is our dear friend and colleague, Sister Jean Frisk.

Sister Jean has earned her Sacred Theological Licentiate from the International Marian Research Institute, who, which, is, it's not a who, it's a which, is a, uh, uh, the sponsor of our program. Welcome Sister, and uh, thank you again for talking and, and sharing and teaching about Mary in the Eucharist. [00:33:00] We were, we were reflecting on Mary's role in the Eucharist and talking about her presence.

Uh, and sharing in Christ's life.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Yes, indeed, and I want to also recognize your studies because you have also studied a great deal at the Institute and shared much of what you know with the whole world, which is wonderful.

**Michele Foley:** Well, thank you. I, it was, you know, it was such a gift. I tell you when I walked in that library and I had my first class and actually it was uh Father Roten and teaching about the meaning of the flowers of Mary in many paintings and it was just lovely.

It was wonderful. And then, of course, you and, um, uh, Virginia Krymow and Brother Joseph Barrish published two books, one of which [00:34:00] was a wonderful favorite, Mary's Flowers, and then the next one was, uh, The Healing Plants of the Bible. I don't believe that they're in print anymore, but, uh, certainly I think people, uh, do try to get in, try to access the, uh, Marian Library at the University of Dayton, and they have on their website, um, uh, All About Mary, I think it's All About Mary, uh, the things that we're talking about, and you may find some wonderful

pieces of information there. They're written very well, and they're accessible to anyone. You could just, it's a library, Marian Library at udayton.edu, so please do that if you are so inclined. Again, And we were talking about the [00:35:00] Eucharist and as well. During the break. I love the song that they play for us that we're talking about the church and we pray for the church and Church, really, it's not a building.

It's the body of Christ, which is all of us. And it's, uh, the more I think about it, the more convinced I am that we are connected. And we are connected in many, many ways. Through the Eucharist and through Mary to Jesus. So anyway, you were, you were, you were going to go ahead and talk some more about your subject here, Sister.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** All of us. Yes, indeed. Uh, in fact, I mean, just enjoying how we share a common identity, Catholics of us. And I want to bring up again, that perhaps most of our listeners know that there will be a big rally or a big convention in [00:36:00] Indianapolis this summer of people coming to praise God and share and talk about, especially about the Eucharist.

They're going to be having pilgrimages from, from, all four corners, if you will, of the United States, so they'll start in the north and there'll be a crew that walks from way north, all the way down to Indianapolis, and the same from the south, from California, then from the east, and we're just really delighted here at our Schoenstatt Center to know that one of the stops of this group of people coming from the north will be right here at our center.

So that makes us really happy Oh, that's fantastic.

**Michele Foley:** That is really fantastic. Will you house them too or how's that?

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Well, several of our sisters will participate in that our young ones of course because this is a walking pilgrimage and so then you go a certain in they are making arrangements where they can stay overnight and so on [00:37:00] but they are really and truly Pilgrimaging down to Indianapolis.

And then there will be a big rally type thing there. I don't know what their facilities are, but they do expect thousands of people. So that should be very special.

**Michele Foley:** I'm sure it'll be

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** broadcast on, yeah, too, all the way. When we look at, uh, the Blessed Mother again, we're looking at Mary. We're talking about sometimes the church fathers or the writers or the popes

will talk about the school of Mary. The school of Mary, that her person teaches us so much about the Lord, so much about God, her faith, her perseverance, uh, the, one of the Eucharistic, this Eucharistic Congress's point of view this time will be Mary, the woman of the Eucharist. And we want to discover all the richness and profound relationship between the church [00:38:00] and the Eucharist

and Mary's part in it. Mary is the model of the church. Mary, who lived out what Jesus wanted for his church. So we think of it in a beautiful way. We think of, um, this is something some of the saints have written. Where does Mary get, I mean, sorry, where does Jesus get his features, his natural features?

Well, he obviously gets it from his mother. So we can say that Mary reflects Jesus, perhaps more than anyone else in the world ever could. So she is our teacher in contemplating Christ's face. She is our teacher in looking at the light that Jesus brings to the world. And she, tells us, look, there, here is my son.

That, and that's what he said, what Jesus said at the cross. Look, there is your mother, and there is your son. So the gospel is actually silent [00:39:00] on the actual happenings as we said before. But we still know that this Holy Thursday experience did happen. We don't know if Mary was present, or if any women were present at the Last Supper.

That we don't know, but we can also, again, assume that there were, and that Jesus, so to say, met with His counsel around the table at the Last Supper. We wish sometimes that we could know more, but we do know that the thought of it is, we can think about it that way. We may have the imagination there that maybe the women were there.

We know that they were there later. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, when he had ascended into heaven, they were meeting again in that upper room, and that is when they experienced the Pentecostal scene, where they experienced the [00:40:00] coming of the Spirit over their heads. They saw flames, a flame of warm fire, but not burning flame that hurts, but a flame that inflamed their hearts somehow.

And this is just amazing that then they were able to go out and bring this message to the whole world. The message of love, infinite, unending love. And this is what the Church really wants to bring to the world. Why do missionaries go? Why do we try so hard in the whole history of our world? Whether we did it right or did it wrong, we tried our best to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the world.

And not the morals and message of the New Testament and the Old Testament together to the world. So every time we think of the, these things, the yoke, the yoke, the church is completely united to Christ and his sacrifice. And this, uh, is, makes her own the [00:41:00] spirit of Mary. Mary is one who walks us with, through the whole process, if you will.

My soul magnifies the Lord, she says. My spirit rejoices in God and she calls him. She calls her son, her little son, my savior. So she knows already that Jesus, from the time she's bearing him in the womb is somehow more and different than anybody else that has ever been and that is what we want to say, in a way, when we become a Eucharistic people ourselves, we want to share this

forever life. What is the point of it all? The point of it all is actually love. Love. Do we know what love is?

Can we imitate love? Can we share love? Is it just a feeling? Is it just a experience of something physical? No. It is something so deep in our [00:42:00] souls, so deep in the person, that yes, some animals can be very affectionate to us, may be loving, if you will, doggies or puppies or, or kitties.

They cannot love like human beings can love. None can. And this is one of the great, great huge mysteries of the Church, of Christ's Church, and the Church that we are supposed to bring to the world. And share in every way. So in a way, we can say we, we have to go to the school of Mary. She is the woman of the Eucharist.

And, uh, it is, it's one of the little notes here, says, If we wish to rediscover all of its richness, the profound relationship between the Church and the Eucharist, we cannot neglect Mary, the mother and model of the Church. In Rosarium Virginis Mariae, the Pope, that's [00:43:00] one of her, her encylcicals, I pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as our teacher.

In contemplating and including her in the institution of the Eucharist, Mary can guide us toward the Most Holy Sacrament because she herself has a profound relationship with it. At first glance, the Gospel is silent on this subject. The account of the institution of the Eucharist on the night of Holy Thursday makes no mention of Mary, of course.

Yet we know that she was present among the Apostles, and they prayed with one accord. So certainly Mary must have been present at those celebrations too. Serving probably, probably a little bit in the background, but fully there in the breaking of the bread. I think that it's important for us to also have an inner relationship to these things.

It's not just, oh, we go, and you know, it's over and done. [00:44:00] Sometimes when little children, I taught in grade school for a while, and sometimes you did have to kind of watch when they went to communion. Do they really know what they're doing? And so then you would try to teach him again. You would say, no, no, no.

I did experience it once where a little boy took it out of his mouth again. And, oh no, you'd take him and you'd say, no, put that back in and, and swallow it and talk about, talk to Jesus. Now, these are all parts of it. It's such a sacred thing for Catholics. Sacred beyond all measure. This wonderful Eucharist of Jesus.

Absolutely. Pardon?

**Michele Foley:** I said absolutely.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** Mm hmm. I was wondering, you had children. You had twins. What was it like when they made their first communion? How was that for those children?

**Michele Foley:** Oh, it was so precious, I tell you. [00:45:00] It, um, they they, they're so innocent. There's just absolutely no, um, they're like, uh, uh, I hate to say a blank slate, but they, they absorb everything and they were, uh, Penny, um, is just a year older than Sean.

It's, uh, Helena and Gregory, Penny's children, that are the twins and, but Penny and Sean, Sean had his a year after Penny as our son and daughter. Just the sweetest little children and so serious about, um, take being reverential or being respectful of the Eucharist. And Sean, he said, mom, mom, I'm, I, I hope I don't, if I chew it, will I hurt him?

And I said, no, you won't hurt him. He, he, he'll be there. He'll be all right. And that's why [00:46:00] they give us that. The little piece of bread. So we, we don't, we won't hurt him. It will dissolve in your mouth there. And so he got a little, he was still a little nervous until after mass. And of course they all sat up front.

They don't, they didn't do it like they do today that where the children sit with the parents. So the children were up front and, um, he kept, he looked back and I, he just kind of smiled, you know, and he was. He was trying to be so respectful. And he said, now, don't, don't look at me. Don't look at me. I won't look at you.

But I, it was funny that you mentioned that because we, um, uh, I was going through some little pictures, you know, and found them found their first Holy Communion pictures. And then the other thing was the prayers. They, they continue to say their prayers and [00:47:00] Penny, um, it was, it was always a part of our good nights to, um, read a story and then pray together before it was, you know, we said good night.

And, um, so when the twins came along, uh, Penny, the Penny's twins, anyway, they, she continued that for many years. And Helena and Gregory still are very involved in church, even though they're in college now and they continue to pray and Helena loves it when we send little cards, you know, we're thinking of you and a little prayer.

So they really like that. But they that first communion day is so incredible. And I have to share something with you that's not of a child. A dear person, uh, who I knew many, many years ago, and I will not say how long, asked me, she was [00:48:00] married to a Catholic gentleman, and who was a just wonderful person, wonderful family, and they had two boys.

But, uh, her husband passed away, uh, early 2020. And then, uh, very sadly, her youngest son passed away just this past September, he had a heart problem. And anyway, so she had, she was baptized, but she was not a Catholic, but they brought their children up. Anyway, long story short, she asked me to be her sponsor to come into the church full.

And it has been a renewal journey. And I, I just can't tell you, I get all teared it up when I think about this lovely woman who is doing something she'd been thinking about and finally decided this, this was it, you know, this was the day or this was the year she was going to do this. And it has given her, [00:49:00] um, last night we had the third scrutiny and then, uh, she and a few others, there was a very small group that are coming into, had been baptized.

So we have, uh, uh, 15 people who are going to be baptized on Easter Vigil. Anyway, so she didn't have to be baptized and, but they had their first Confession and they were nervous wrecks. And I said, don't be, don't be nervous. And this priest, Father, Father Dahlman, he was just Bellman, rather Bellman. He is such a, uh, wonderful, wonderful young man.

He's just lovely. And he was the presider over our ceremonies, but she went to Confession and she came out glowing and it was just you know I think about her gonna make her First Communion on uh Mercy Sunday, but she's gonna go to [00:50:00] um, they're going to do the people who are being baptized at Easter Vigil.

So anyway long story, but you know these things just make it so real. I mean her whole life has been for the body of Christ and now here she's going to be a member of the Catholic faith and really was but she never pursued, you know, the classes and things so as we as we've come to the end of our program, I would encourage everyone to take the time this week, today, tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday, and think about the risen Christ.

And think about the fact that we are God's creation. We are not going to go to sleep forever and not have an afterlife. God loves us so much that he created us in the [00:51:00] world. And so we have this precious gift. And then he left himself with us in the Eucharist. So I will. Be quiet and let you finish.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** No, you don't, you know, don't get

**Michele Foley:** me going.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** That's really wonderful. It's really true. And I don't know what time is because I don't have my clock right here, but

**Michele Foley:** okay. We had, we have a couple of minutes. We have a couple of minutes.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** One thing that we have to really emphasize with this is you can see the Eucharist from kind of two perspectives, if you will.

One, it is the sacrificial sign again, at the central moment of mass, which makes us again present to the death of Christ. And it's also a sacramental sign for the birth of the church. The church is always being born again with new persons, with people like yourself now, with the baptism, coming in, talking [00:52:00] about, and it is all about eternal life and eternal joy.

And if people would relax in this understanding, how joyful, how happy we can be because it is not just some kind of story made up. It is the reality of our life. When we think of this beautiful moment, the Eucharist is the mystery of faith is a mystery. It transcends all our understanding.

We'll never really understand the Eucharist. That is for sure. We'll never understand all those wonderful words in the gospels. We, we can read them over and over again and say, well, what did he mean here? What did Paul mean there and so on, but we do accept Mary's invitation to obey him in without hesitation because what does Mary say to the person who's running out of wine?

Do whatever he tells you. And in the same way, the same maternal concern, she shows us. And [00:53:00] she wants us, and she walks with us. We walk with Mary and want to really and truly walk in the mystery of the Eucharist, in the mystery of the divine presence of the Lord. So as she lives always in that Eucharistic presence and presence of her Son, then we too are called to do that same thing.

I mean, I'd never take it for granted when I go to communion of what is happening here. The communion is the reality. This little piece of white bread is whatever you want to say. It is the body of Jesus. And it comes to us with all its beautiful love and care. So I hope that you, um, will think about this beautiful event that's going to happen in our country this summer.

Look forward to that. The Eucharistic Congress is going to come, and as many people as possible can, [00:54:00] I suppose we can follow it online too. So thank you very much for taking care, Michele, and I know that your husband is right next to you there.

**Michele Foley:** Oh yeah, he always is.

**Sr. Jean Frisk:** May our listeners again love our Lord, love Mary, and stay faithful.

**Michele Foley:** God bless all of you who listen, and thank you Radio Maria, a Catholic voice in your home. We will see you next Thursday at one o'clock central two o'clock eastern God bless you. And thank you again Radio Maria and all our listeners. Goodbye for now.[00:55:00]

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