

The Priceless Gift

A short while ago, a friend told me about a priest she had seen on the television who said that when Christ was present in the Eucharist the place is surrounded by angels. It made me remember that a good many years ago, when I was at my first cub-scout camp, the chaplain spoke the same way. I told my friend that I would rephrase the matter; *when Christ is present in the Eucharist, he brings heaven with him.*

September is a month for new beginnings; why not use this idea of renewal to be more conscious of the majestic presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. Jacques Leclecq, in his 1954 book. *Vie du Père Lebbe* (Lebbe was the Vincentian priest who is considered one of the major pillars of the RC Church in China) provides the following. Father Lebbe knew that one of his catechist had a mother in law who was an impossible woman. She seemed to see herself as a professional critic of everything and every one. She, of course was not baptized.

Father Lebbe was saying mass when he noticed the catechist and his mother in law were in the assistance. The next day both came to see Father Lebbe. The lady was a changed person who, with great humility, asked the missionary for permission to begin studying to prepare for baptism. Father Lebbe asked what had prompted her change of attitude. She replied: Yesterday I came with my son in law to see for myself the superstitious nonsense that I believed took place at mass. When you opened the little door on the box on the altar (she meant the tabernacle) I saw a light brighter than the sun and I was filled with peace and joy such that human word cannot describe.

On a daily basis, let us thank God for the great gift of the Eucharist and may you have a splendid Vincentian year.

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