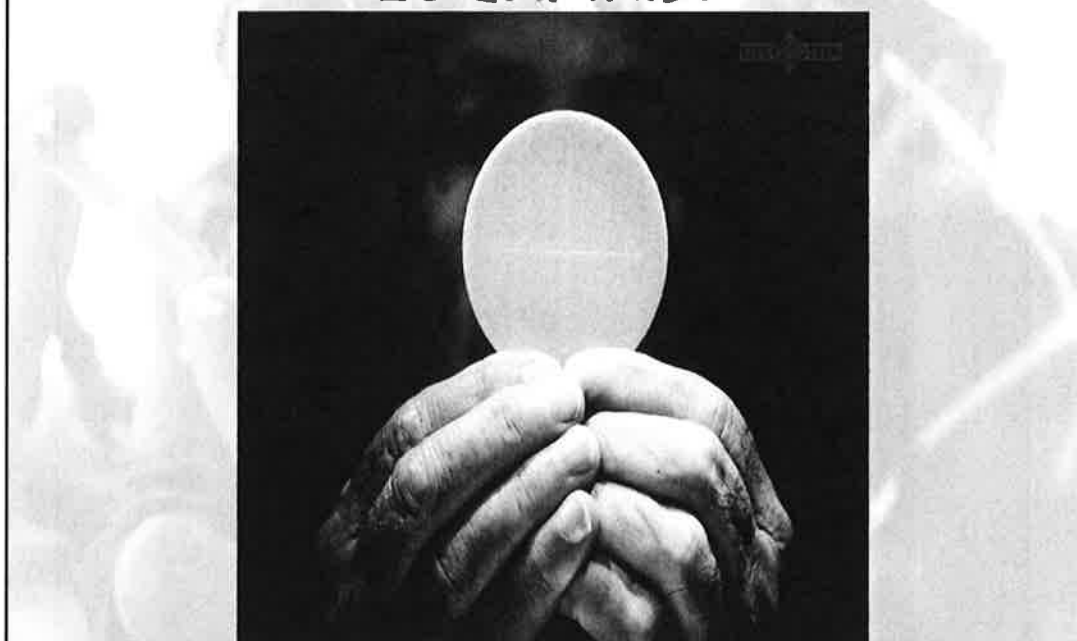


THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

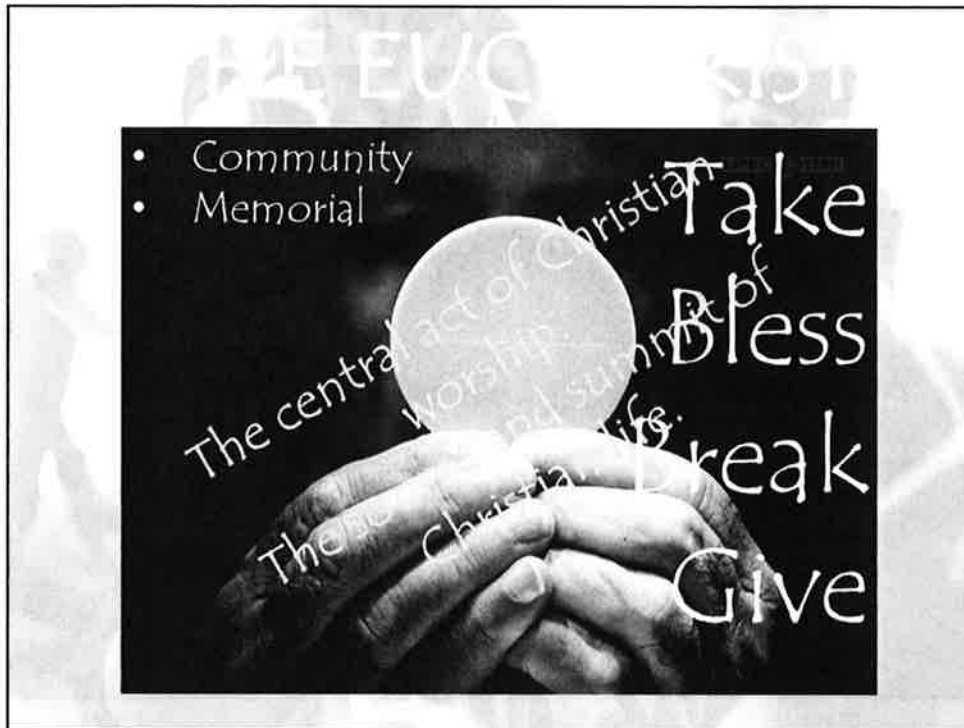


Prep:

- Community needs sheets
- Jigsaws and lollies (groups of 4/5) for grouping
- Little Humpty and The Keeping Quilt books
- Keeping Quilt symbol wheel sheets
- Picture sorting for Little Humpty activity
- Senses cube
- Sequencing cards for parts of mass and icon cards
- Responses snap (not laminated)
- Sequencing of Mass – laminated
- Eucharist grab bag – people dolls, bread, wine, pic of priest.

The Eucharist is central to everything we do in faith. The Eucharist is the principal act of worship of the majority of the billion and a half or so Christians in the world today. It has been, since the church's beginnings, an integral part of its identity. Among the many possible reasons for this emphasis, there is one so palpable, so unquestionable, it stands out among the others: it is a meal. As a meal, it resonates with the most basic practices necessary for life and its nourishment. In the Eucharist, extraordinary attention is drawn to the utterly ordinary.

The Eucharist is no mere moment in a mass or service. Rather, it is the summit of Christian life, toward which everything is directed and from which everything flows. But it is not the usual kind of summit; it is not abstract or ethereal or difficult to comprehend. The Eucharistic community is a paradigm of a communal response to human hunger, one which offers an alternative vision of what constitutes a peaceful social body -- one that is, perhaps, comparably easy to envision since its embodiment can be touched, tasted, and swallowed.



The Eucharist is central to everything we do in faith. The Eucharist is the principal act of worship of the majority of the billion and a half or so Christians in the world today. It has been, since the church's beginnings, an integral part of its identity. Among the many possible reasons for this emphasis, there is one so palpable, so unquestionable, it stands out among the others: it is a meal. As a meal, it resonates with the most basic practices necessary for life and its nourishment. In the Eucharist, extraordinary attention is drawn to the utterly ordinary.

The Eucharist is no mere moment in a mass or service. Rather, it is the summit of Christian life, toward which everything is directed and from which everything flows. But it is not the usual kind of summit; it is not abstract or ethereal or difficult to comprehend. The Eucharistic community is a paradigm of a communal response to human hunger, one which offers an alternative vision of what constitutes a peaceful social body -- one that is, perhaps, comparably easy to envision since its embodiment can be touched, tasted, and swallowed.

THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

BAPTISM

Baptism is a re-birth of the individual into sharing the life of Christ. According to Church tradition, set free from sin, the baptised now becomes part of God's family.

BORN ANEW

STRENGTHENED

CONFIRMATION

To carry on Christ's mission in the world, the Christian needs the gifts of the Holy Spirit. An indwelling Jesus in his lifetime. These are bestowed through Confirmation.

TOUCHED WITH SPIRITUAL FOOD

EUCCHARIST

The daily living of the gospel is not possible alone. It must rely on the spiritual nourishment that God gives.

THE ORIGINS OF THE EUCHARIST

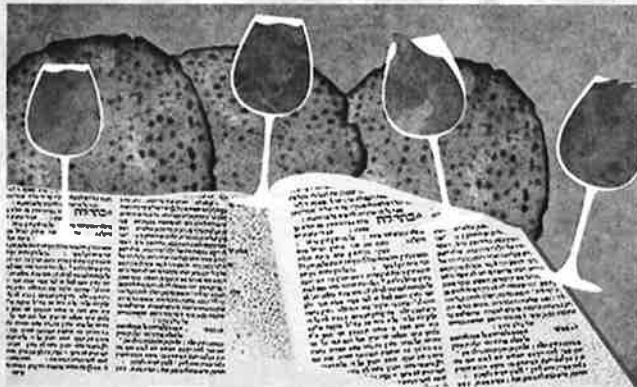


Separate participants into groups of four/five – with lollies.

Hand out information packs on the Passover and then share findings as a group:

- 1.The Last Supper
- 2.Jewish festivals
- 3.Food of the Passover

The Seder (Passover meal) is a feast that includes reading, drinking wine, telling stories, eating special foods and singing.



INTRODUCTORY RITE -
GATHERING

We gather and prepare.

LITURGY OF THE WORD -
STORYTELLING

We listen and respond.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST -
SHARING A MEAL

RITE OF DISMISSAL - GOING INTO
THE WORLD

We go forth and proclaim our belief
in word and action.



BEING EUCHARIST

The Eucharist causes an intimate union with Jesus Christ.

It preserves, increases and renews the life of grace received at Baptism.

It builds and strengthens unity among the members of the Church.

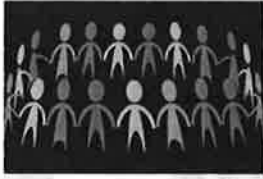
It fosters and encourages a commitment to those who are poor and marginalized in the community.



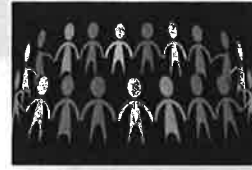
Lead them down the road to Emmaus
lead them to where community
happens
-- as it did for the disciples on the road--
- in the 'breaking of the bread'-
where no one is outcast
and no one is without value
ed from the feast.



Joan Chittister



To become
a committed member
of a community
is to allow others
to know us,
to lead us,
to prod us to do more,
to do better,
to do something which, alone,
we might never have either the courage
or the conscious awareness to do.



Eucharist is all about community – think about your school community. What do they hunger for?

AT THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION WE:

- remember

What do we remember?

- celebrate

What do we celebrate?

- are encouraged to go out and serve each other and the world in the spirit of Jesus' teachings

How do we encourage this?

Remember –

• Jesus at the Last Supper said “Do this in memory of me” and in the Eucharist as *memorial* we call to mind Christ’s life, death and resurrection. The scene of intimacy, sharing and friendship of the Last Supper. The taking of the bread and wine is a memorial of Jesus’ preaching, teaching and death.

• Our core beliefs are recalled, affirmed and shared. To remember and reaffirm our commitment.

We also remember the heritage from the Old Testament in the form of the Passover and the Exodus – the freedom given by God.

Celebrate – freedom granted by God. The word ‘Eucharist’ is derived from a Greek word meaning ‘thanksgiving’. This key concept of thanksgiving is at the heart of Eucharist. It is linked to the Jewish feast of Passover, when the people of Israel gathered as community to remember God’s presence in their history, Yahweh’s compassion for them in their suffering, their oppression and their persecution and particularly during their liberation from slavery in Egypt and their Exodus and journey through the desert to the Promised Land. Jesus and his disciples ate a Passover meal together before Jesus’ passion and death and elements of *thanksgiving, memorial, sacrifice, community and presence*, characteristic of the Passover Meal, have taken on renewed meaning and significance in the Eucharist, focused as it is on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So in the Eucharist, as a Christian people, followers of Jesus Christ, we give thanks.

The Christian concept of sacrifice is life giving and relational. The sacrifice of the Mass confronts us all with the real cost of becoming the community of Christ in today’s world. It is the sacrificing of ourselves on behalf of others. The Hebrew people powerfully experienced the presence of God in community. Having been delivered from slavery, they committed themselves to live together as a just and unified nation. Eucharist as *community* is best reflected in service of others and in seeking justice. In the Gospel of John the Last Supper is focused on Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Jesus says: “So, if I your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14). The story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Mark 6:30-44) highlights the need for to be alert and responsive to the needs of others.

When we receive Holy Communion, we receive the body and blood of Christ, who is really and truly present under the forms of bread and wine. Such communion increases our love for God. It also strengthens the unity of the Church, also called the Body of Christ.



In sharing Jesus' body and blood, the people are meant to *become* Jesus – becoming hope, life and joy for the world. Not only are the gifts of bread and wine changed in the Eucharist; those who participate are changed as well.



The word 'communion' means to be united with - Catholics believe that in Holy Communion they are united in a special way with Jesus Christ, that they are sharing in the body and blood of Christ the Saviour.



JESUS' PRESENCE



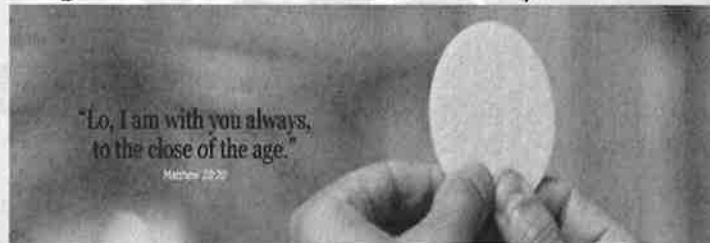
Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist

- 1) in the assembly that gathers in Christ's name
- 2) in the priest or bishop who presides
- 3) in the word proclaimed in our midst
- 4) in the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine.

Though they differ from each other, each of these presences is real, and each offers us a unique opportunity to recognize Christ with us.

THE EFFECTS (FRUITS) OF THE EUCHARIST

- an intimate union with Jesus
- preserves, increases and renews the life of grace received at Baptism
- builds and strengthens unity among members of the Church
- fosters and encourages a commitment to the poor and marginalised in the community



THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

WORDS:

"Body of Christ" "Blood of Christ" "Do this in memory of me."

SYMBOLS:

Bread and wine- symbolic of basic nourishment for life. The *presence* of Jesus, the risen Christ, is in the Eucharist in the bread 'broken' and the wine 'poured out'.

Presider- Jesus is present in the person of the priest presiding at the celebration of Eucharist.

The Word- the gathered community receives nourishment from the word of God that is proclaimed and broken open during the Mass. Jesus is present in the Scriptures, the Word of God proclaimed.

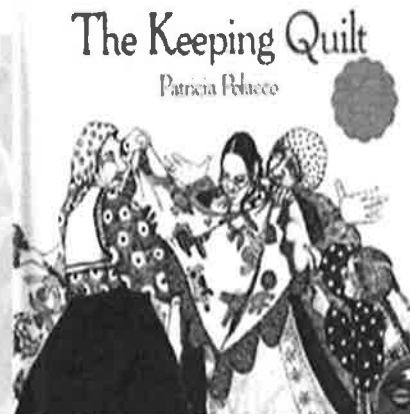
Community- Jesus is present in the community of his followers gathered together.

ACTIONS:

Elevation of the host and wine

Ring of bells - the bells are rung at the time of consecration.

USING CHILDREN'S LITERATURE TO DRAW OUT CONCEPTS OF EUCHARIST



Separate teachers into junior and middle/upper. Give "The Keeping Quilt" to the middle/upper teachers to read and give "Little Humpty" to junior teachers to read.

Middle/Upper teachers - Discuss how this story can be used on many different levels but the notions of symbol and memory, both key elements of Eucharist are prominent.

Symbol wheel sheet - Place the name of the symbols into the middle of a circle and ask students to add the many things the quilt stood for and/or represented for Patricia's family. Then do the same for the Eucharist. Students will be able to realise in concrete ways the significance of both symbol and Eucharist for Christians as they explore the quilt's place in the lives of this family.

Junior teachers – Discuss how this story can be used on many levels, but the notion of community is very strong and one that can be pulled out for Eucharist. Picture symbol sorting – what you would see in the oasis and at Church.

At the end, share outline of books and activity.

ACTIVITIES TO USE IN THE TEACHING OF THE EUCHARIST



Junior teachers – senses cube and ordering of pics of Mass and then look at each one and use senses icons from Miss Lily book.

Middle/upper teachers – Last supper/Eucharist comparison, Mass part sequencing and responses snap.



The Liturgy of the Eucharist...

Common theme throughout the stories of our faith – manna in the desert,, feeding if the 5000 (the only miracle story to appear in all four gospels).

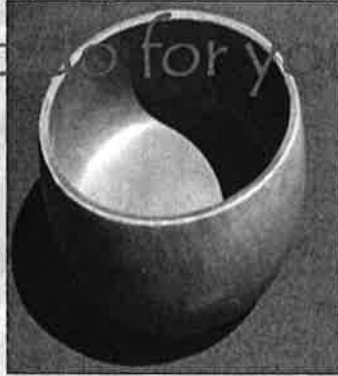
The Offertory at Mass -

With the wine and the bread we bring up the 'ordinariness' of our lives – the highs, the lows, the wounds, the celebrations...

During the Eucharist, we do 4 things: We

- Take – these lives of ours
- Bless – these lives of ours
- Break – our lives open to find the gifts within
- Give – and share with others, taking something from the process. (link to the “full potential” part of Vision Statement)

What do you want to
bring?
What do you want God
to do for you?



Here are my hope and dreams, my gifts
and the things I ask for my life,
that what I ask for might become gift for others.

Luke 18:35-43

35 As he *approached* Jericho,
a blind man
was sitting by the roadside *begging*.
36 When he heard a crowd going by,
he *asked what was happening*.
37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."
38 Then he shouted,
"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
39 Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet;
but he shouted even more loudly,
"Son of David, have mercy on me!"
40 Jesus stood still
and ordered the man to be brought to him;
and when he came near, he asked him,
41 "What do you want me to do for you?"
He said,
"Lord, let me see again."
42 Jesus said to him,
"Receive your sight; your faith has saved you."
43 Immediately he regained his sight
and followed him, *glorifying God*;
and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

Time to make their own pottery bowl in which to hold our offering. As you are making the bowl consider bottom of slide...

Sit, with completed bowls around prayer rag in middle of circle for prayer service on next slide...