



# Saint Pius Calling You... To His True Body and Blood

## THE SACRIFICE OF GOD FOR MAN

by Blandina Lecce

*All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are works of men, but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison, for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man.*

- St. John Vianney,  
Curé d'Ars

Perhaps that is one reason why St. Padre Pio said, *If people knew the value of the Holy Mass, there would be policemen at the door to regulate access to the church every time that Mass is celebrated.*

The sacrifice of God for man happens at every Mass, but it is not a repeated event. While Sundays roll into weeks and into months and into years according to our calendars, the Mass itself is not a linear event in that way. Jesus is not sacrificed over and over again, quite simply because it is an impossibility: Jesus' sacrifice for man transcends time and is ever-present (CCC13653-1367). When we attend Mass, we enter into the ever-present Last Supper with Jesus and participate in His offering of Himself as the Passover meal.

In addition to being present with Jesus, we are present with the entire mystical Body of Christ, as evidenced when we proclaim, "holy, holy, holy" as they do in heaven (Revelation 4:8), and when we participate in "the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9)



(CCC 1329). We all rejoice, heaven and earth together.

St. Augustine advised, *Take care of your body as if you were going to live forever; and take care of your soul as if you were going to die tomorrow.* We Catholics are very fortunate to have so many ways to care for our souls: Participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, reading scripture, multitudes of prayers and novenas, holy hours in Adoration, etc.

But Jesus said, *He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last*

*day* (John 6:54). All of our grace-filling practices should lead us to that one truth and to receive Him worthily at Mass. It must also, therefore, be recognized and affirmed that 'symbols' do not give eternal life.

When we receive Jesus' body, blood, soul, and divinity, we become a temple of His dwelling place. In other words, He literally abides in us (John 6:56). How do we handle this reality? How should we handle it? Are we even paying attention?

Going all the way back to A.D. 151, we hear St. Justin Martyr: *For not as common bread nor common drink do we receive these; but since Jesus Christ our Savior was made incarnate by the word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so too, as we have been taught, the food which has been made into the Eucharist by the Eucharistic prayer set down by him, and by the change of which our blood and flesh is nurtured, is both the flesh and the blood of that incarnated Jesus* (First Apology 66).

Amen.

March 2024  
Special Edition

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The Lorica Award is bestowed annually by the Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg to recognize lay members for their exemplary service to the local Church, especially those who have “bound to your heart” the strength of the Triune God through integrity of faith and generosity of service. The award was established in 2019, suffered COVID interruptions in 2020 and 2021, and began again in 2022.

Named after the renowned prayer attributed to Saint Patrick, the Lorica prayer can be found at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/lorica-of-saint-patrick-349> and is very much worth reading and praying.

One of ten 2024 Lorica awards spanning the Diocese was awarded by Bishop Senior to our own Joe Scartelli on March 17 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

It might be an understatement to say, “Joe Scartelli truly deserves this award.” This writer caught up to Joe to get a sense of how he has been led in service of the faith to others.

He sums up his experience in this way: “When you encounter Jesus, He will always give you a mission, and He will prepare you for that mission. If you encounter Jesus, your life will never be the same.” Joe can identify three specific points in his life when he felt Jesus calling him.

The first was as a sophomore at the University of Scranton. He was reading scripture and came across Matthew 25:40: *As you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me.* As he read it, he felt such an infusion of grace that he decided to spend his life working with people who are disabled. This experience immediately



caused him to rethink his business major and change it to social work. He also earned his Master’s Degree with a major in psychiatric social work from Fordham University. His career spanned 37 years, retiring after 26 years as the Director of Selinsgrove Center in 1998.

The Scartelli family became members of St. Pius X in 1972. For 15 years Joe was a mediocre Catholic, always attending Sunday Mass but with little, if any, additional prayer life.

In 1987 a priest providentially gave him a copy each of *Vatican II Weekday Missal* and *Vatican II Sunday Missal*; Joe began praying daily for brief periods by following these daily readings. His prayer life continued to grow and he developed a burning desire for more.

It was then that Jean Grosse asked him to attend a Cursillo. At that 1991 Cursillo, Joe was touched by the Holy Spirit in such a way that the fire never went out. He began attending daily Mass and praying a daily rosary, and the Holy Eucharist became his life.

At about that time fellow parishioners began asking Joe to get more involved in the Church. He

readily admits he resisted doing that, but Jesus had other plans.

He and Karol attended a talk by the mystic Eileen George at Sacred Heart Church in Lewisburg; they arrived early. He prayed silently while watching Eileen as she was preparing for her talk. Joe’s prayer to Jesus: “I’m not going to get involved in working for the Church unless you want me to. You have to let me know.”

At that moment Eileen immediately raised her head as if listening to somebody. She then left the sanctuary and walked down to Joe, who was sitting halfway up the center aisle at the end of a pew. She simply put her hand on his shoulder and smiled at him. She didn’t say anything but stood there for about ten seconds and then went back to the sanctuary to begin her session. Joe’s answer was immediate, and obviously an affirmation to get involved.

This experience caused him to begin praying for a ministry post-retirement, which leads to the second specific point when he felt Jesus calling him. He learned about a three-day conference in Michigan featuring several renowned speakers, one of which was Sister Ann Shields. He felt moved to attend...Karol didn’t want to attend, but if anyone knows Joe, they drove to Michigan for the conference. He continued his prayer for a direction in ministry.

After the third day’s events, Sister Ann was on stage gathering her things and Joe and Karol were still sitting in their seats. Sister looked at them and said the Holy Spirit was talking to her about them. She revealed that Karol didn’t want to be there, which Sister Ann had otherwise no way of knowing. She also revealed there was a ministry for both of them and that it would

## ENCOUNTER JESUS

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cost them, but it would be worth it. She was unable to identify any specific ministry, but she did say the Holy Spirit was anointing their marriage. What a blessing!

Joe now understood his prayer for a ministry was to be answered, and he wanted to be better trained in the faith. He thought it was needed to be effective in passing it on as well as living a faith-filled life.

For the next several years he began praying for formation direction. This led to a God incident, since there are no coincidences in life. Shortly after Joe's retirement in 1998, Karol had to see Fr. Joe after Mass about something. Joe had no reason to walk into the office with Karol, but he did. At that moment Fr. Joe was holding a paper that he was about to discard. It described a three-year formation program in the faith to become an Ecclesial Lay Minister. He instead gave it to Joe. Joe didn't hesitate, his prayer was finally

answered. Ecclesial Lay Minister formation involved traveling to Harrisburg one day per week during the academic years and one full week during the summers, and it involved mid-terms, finals, and many, many written papers. It was an excellent, college-level formation program and pretty intensive.

All of the above ultimately culminated in his mission to be Pastoral Associate under Fr. Ted Keating in 2002, for which he was now prepared.

As Pastoral Associate, he has been involved in many ministries over the years. He continues his Communion calls to Grayson View, Penn Manor, Pennsfield, and to people who are homebound. He is a member of the OCIA team, a Reader, and he serves at daily Mass. He attends rosary prayer group and serves on parish council. He also attends That Man Is You, which he looks forward to

every Saturday morning. His study of the faith is on-going through reading books and listing to bishops and theologians through social media.

He continues as an annulment assessor and actively evangelizes whoever the Lord puts in front of him: Joe plants seeds, prays, and lets the Holy Spirit work. Joe explains that everything is grace, we are but instruments.

He has been involved in many other ministries in the past, such as Baptismal Preparation, prison ministry, Cursillo teams, and chief sauce maker for our lasagna dinners.

Thank you, Joe Scartelli, for following Jesus' promptings and serving as an excellent example of obedience to God's will. You have truly "bound to your heart" the strength of the Triune God through integrity of faith and generosity of service.

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## THE EUCHARIST USCCB

By his Real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfils his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "It is the law of friendship that friends

should live together. . . . Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood" ( *Summa Theo-*

*logiae*, III q. 75, a. 1). With this gift of Christ's presence in our midst, the Church is truly blessed. As Jesus told his disciples, referring to his presence among them, "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it" (Mt 13:17). In the Eucharist the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine Christ gives us the gift of eternal life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. . . . Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. (Jn 6:53-57)



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### Our Mission

We the members of Saint Pius X Christian Community seek Christ who is our life and has revealed Himself to us.

We praise Him by providing a spiritual environment so that all may follow in His footsteps. The realization of the Body and Blood of Christ through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the most important part of our journey. To be one with Christ through the Holy Eucharist is the ultimate expression of the faith.

Visit our Web Site for more information.  
[www.stpiusXparish.net](http://www.stpiusXparish.net)

## Brothers and Sisters, can you spare an hour?

“The daily adoration or visit to the Blessed Sacrament is the fountain-head of all devotional works.” (St. Pope Pius X) Why do you do Eucharistic Adoration? Please let us know so we can share with our brothers and sisters.

### My Small Adoration Miracle Blandina Lecce

I've heard that some people wonder about Adoration and what people “do” during their hour. In my case I usually say a rosary, read the day's scripture readings, and do morning prayer in the Catholic Mega app. One other thing I've done is write a particular prayer intention on (the provided) slips of paper and put it into the prayer box. I believe that last effort caused my miracle.

I had had a contentious relationship with a person, such that I confessed my bad feelings in Reconciliation. I was advised to ask God to bless that person...not how, or when, or how often, just to do it.

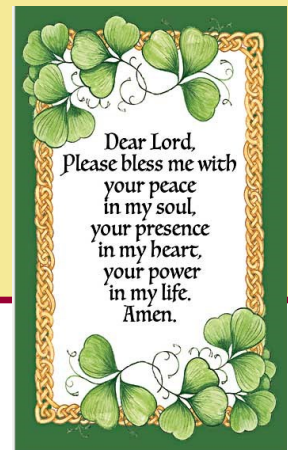
The best way I could think of was to ask God during my Adoration hour. I wrote on a slip of paper and put it into the prayer box: “Dear Jesus, please bless (name)”. I did that every week for months; and because we had little contact with each other, I had no idea if s/he was being blessed

in some way. But that didn't matter, I continued the effort.

Eventually there came a time when that person's name came up in conversation with mutual friends, along with the usual unkind words (none of these folks liked this person either). This is when my small miracle happened.

Instead of joining in the conversation, I was literally unable to speak. I actually felt something hold me back! That in itself was amazing, but in the very next instant I felt an inner peace. And then I inwardly grinned like a fool when I realized that God answered the prayer I needed but didn't realize it. He healed me.

I truly hope this person has been so very blessed as well.



## DEAR GOD,

Please take extra care of the person reading this right now. Bless them and answer their prayers.

AMEN.



Little Church Mouse  
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Years ago, when St. Pius X Parish began Eucharistic Adoration, I did not sign up for an hour, Just telling myself I would go occasionally. After a few visits, I was inspired to commit to one hour. That was the best hour of my week, visiting Jesus in His Real Presence. I now have committed to 2 hours and 1 more on another day. Still the very best hours of my week!

Judy Margherio