

# Reflections

## International Catholic Family Newsletter

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**We Are Like the Good Thief on the Cross**

**Bishop Fulton J. Sheen Quotes to Live By**

**Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man**

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### **Blessings to All:**

By: Richard Pickard

Peace be with you.

To know thyself is a worthy saying. During our journey upon earth, many of us go about our daily lives without the least thought that God lives within us. The Almighty Spirit of God resides humbly in our soul. **1 Corinthians 3:16**, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” **Ezekiel 37:14**, “I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life...”

The honor that God has given to us, escapes us in the hustle and bustle of daily living. But during the Easter Season, our spirit refocuses us to reach for God’s Spirit within us. The churches are packed, and the confessional lines are long. It is a time of reflection.

We come together in churches throughout the world, during this time of the year and ask for forgiveness and grace to live a better life in God’s eyes. We are children of the Most Loving Father.

### **Children of God through Adoption.**

**Romans: 8:14-17.** “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.”

## We Are Like The Good Thief on the Cross

Like the thief on the cross next to Jesus, we are reminded of Jesus' suffering for our sins and reach out to Him and ask for something that only He can give. "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom". Redemption and forgiveness are always there for us. We just have to ask.

The life we live each day, can 'become' who we are. Bishop Fulton Sheen once said "***If you do not live what you believe, you will end up believing what you live.***" The sum of our days reflects who we are. But like the 'good thief', we can reach out to Jesus while life is still in us and ask Him to forgive us. He will. **Just ask.**

## We are examples to the world

Our children, friends and family, see us as 'who we are'. We are the examples that our children will eventually mimic as they mature. Do I curse? Do I get loud and threatening when I am angry? Do I lie? What am I teaching my children by my everyday actions? Good or bad?



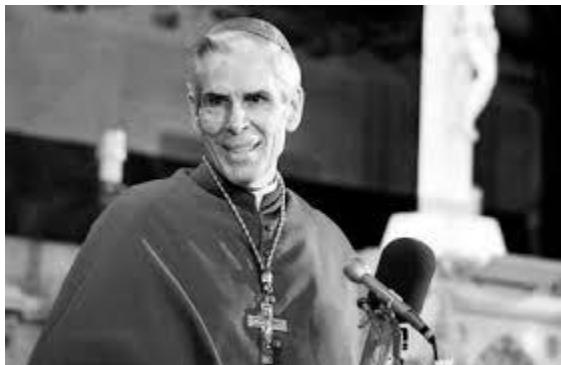
This Season, is a reminder to us to reach out for Jesus' help in our lives. We influence way more people than what we think. The devil will always be the opposite of good, truth, and love. And his lies, if we mimic him, leave a scar on our souls where God resides. **All of us are sinners. Period. All of us.** That is why we need Jesus and to seek Him in the confessional and in the privacy of our hearts. Make time to do that. Your spirit...God's Spirit...that is within you, will get rid of the baggage we accumulate and become new again. Peace within becomes real again. Jesus took upon Himself our sins on the cross. His Resurrection is the culmination of absorbing our sins into His very being and cleansing them.

Do not linger over past sins. That is the devil's way of telling you that 'you are not worthy of forgiveness'. But Jesus says, you are worthy. You are a child of God and He came to save all of God's children. **John 3:16-17**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Rejoice in the Easter promise. Jesus loves You and has defeated the devil for you. Be Not Afraid. For

Jesus is Trustworthy. Take a few minutes and listen to this video and let your spirit be raised to thank Jesus for His sacrifice for our sins.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWpG7qHtB8g>

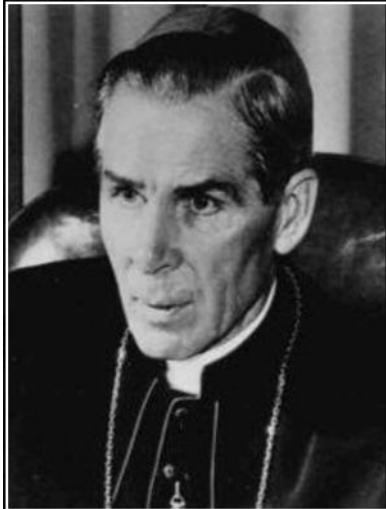
## **Bishop Fulton J. Sheen Famous Quotes. Worth Pondering.**



believe in him; they are already on his side."

"Very few people believe in the devil these days, which suits the devil very well. He is always helping to circulate the news of his own death. The essence of God is existence, and He defines Himself as: 'I am Who am.' The essence of the devil is the lie, and he defines himself as: 'I am who am not.' Satan has very little trouble with those who do not

- "The nearer Christ comes to a heart, the more it becomes conscious of its guilt; it will then either ask for his mercy and find peace, or else it will turn against Him because it is not yet ready to give up its sinfulness. Thus, He will separate the good from the bad, the wheat from the chaff. Man's reaction to this Divine Presence will be the test: either it will call out all the opposition of egotistic natures, or else galvanize them into a regeneration and a resurrection."
- "You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people."



The refusal to take sides on great moral issues is itself a decision. It is a silent acquiescence to evil. The Tragedy of our time is that those who still believe in honesty lack fire and conviction, while those who believe in dishonesty are full of passionate conviction.

— Fulton J. Sheen —

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## **Jesus, Son of Man... What does it mean?**

"Son of Man" is as a reference to the prophecy of **Daniel 7:13-14**, "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one

that will never be destroyed."

The description "Son of Man" was a Messianic title. Jesus is the One who was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. When Jesus used this phrase, He was assigning the Son of Man prophecy to Himself. ***The Jews of that era would have been intimately familiar with the phrase and to whom it referred. Jesus was proclaiming Himself as the Messiah.***

A second meaning of the phrase "Son of Man" is that Jesus was truly a human being. Jesus was fully God (John 1:1), but He was also a human being (John



1:14). First John 4:2 tells us, "This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God." Yes, Jesus was the Son of God—He was in His essence God. Yes, Jesus was also the Son of Man—He was in His essence a human being. In summary, the phrase "Son of Man" indicates that Jesus is the Messiah and that He is truly a human being.

## Pope Francis, Eucharistic Miracle in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Posted on [March 28, 2013](#)



[Easter](#) is a beautiful time to deepen our devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Pascal Mystery which we celebrate in a special way during the Easter Triduum—the Passion, death and bodily resurrection of Christ—is daily

present to us in the Eucharist. The Church teaches that Jesus is really, truly, and actually there—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—in the Holy Eucharist.

Unfortunately, it is all too easy, due to human weakness, to begin to lose our sense of awe, wonder, and adoration of Our Lord in the Eucharist.

A great way to reinvigorate our belief and to encourage devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is by reading accounts of Eucharistic miracles that have occurred throughout the ages of the Church, from the earliest years to modern times. In fact, Jesus gives us these miracles throughout the centuries so that our love for him in the Eucharist will not wane or grow cold.



When we meditate on the primacy of Christ in all creation we cannot help but marvel at how He draws all things to Himself when He is lifted up in the Holy Eucharist where He is really present with His body, blood, soul and divinity. Although substantially present, nonetheless the appearance or accidents of bread

and wine miraculously remain. In this way we eat of His flesh and drink of His blood in Holy Communion and He truly becomes our food and drink in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On rare occasions Our Lord works what is called a eucharistic miracle whereby not only the substance changes – transubstantiation – but even the accidents. ***In 1996 in the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Argentina, when the present Pope Francis was Auxiliary Bishop under Cardinal Quarracino, an amazing eucharistic miracle took place.*** He himself had it photographed and investigated, and the results are astonishing.

### **Eucharistic Miracle in Buenos Aires 1996**

Here is a segment describing the event written by Father M. Piotrowski

The weakening of faith in the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Eucharist is one of the most significant aspects of the current spiritual crisis. Jesus wants to strengthen our faith in His Eucharistic presence. That is why from time to time in the history of the Catholic Church He gives us signs-Eucharistic miracles that clearly underscore the fact that He, the Risen Lord Himself in the mystery of His Divinity and glorified humanity, is truly present in the Eucharist. The most recent Eucharistic miracle recognized by the Church authorities occurred in 1996 in the capital of Argentina-Buenos Aires.

### **A consecrated Host becomes flesh and blood**

At seven o'clock in the evening on August 18, 1996, Fr. Alejandro Pezet was saying Holy Mass at a Catholic church in the commercial center of Buenos Aires. As he was finishing distributing Holy Communion, a woman came up to tell him that she had found a discarded host on a candleholder at the back of the church. On going to the spot indicated, Fr. Alejandro saw the defiled Host. Since he was unable to consume it, he placed it in a container of water and put it away in the tabernacle of the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament.

On Monday, August 26, upon opening the tabernacle, he saw to his amazement that the Host had turned into a bloody substance. He informed Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Auxiliary Bishop at that time, now Pope Francis), who gave instructions that the Host be professionally photographed. The photos were taken on September 6. They clearly show that the Host, which had become a fragment of bloodied flesh, had grown significantly in size. For several years the Host remained in the tabernacle, the whole affair being kept a strict secret. Since the Host

suffered no visible decomposition, Cardinal Bergoglio decided to have it scientifically analyzed.



On October 5, 1999, in the presence of the Cardinal's representatives, Dr. Castanon took a sample of the bloody fragment and sent it to New York for analysis. Since he did not wish to prejudice the study, he purposely did not inform the team of scientists of its provenance. One of these scientists was Dr. Frederic Zugiba, the well-known cardiologist and forensic pathologist. He determined that the analyzed substance was real flesh and blood containing human DNA. Zugiba testified that, "the analyzed material

is a fragment of the heart muscle found in the wall of the left ventricle close to the valves. This muscle is responsible for the contraction of the heart. It should be borne in mind that the left cardiac ventricle pumps blood to all parts of the body. The heart muscle is in an inflammatory condition and contains a large number of white blood cells. This indicates that the heart was alive at the time the sample was taken. It is my contention that the heart was alive, since white blood cells die outside a living organism. They require a living organism to sustain them. Thus, their presence indicates that the heart was alive when the sample was taken. What is more, these white blood cells had penetrated the tissue, which further indicates that the heart had been under severe stress, as if the owner had been beaten severely about the chest."

Two Australians, journalist Mike Willesee and lawyer Ron Tesoriero, witnessed these tests. Knowing where sample had come from, they were dumbfounded by Dr. Zugiba's testimony. Mike Willesee asked the scientist how long the white blood cells would have remained alive if they had come from a piece of human tissue, which had been kept in water. They would have ceased to exist in a matter of minutes, Dr. Zugiba replied. The journalist then told the doctor that the source of the sample had first been kept in ordinary water for a month and then for another three years in a container of distilled water; only then had the sample been taken for analysis. Dr. Zugiba's was at a loss to account for this fact. There was no way of explaining it scientifically, he stated. Only then did Mike Willesee inform Dr. Zugiba that the analyzed sample came from a consecrated Host (white, unleavened bread) that had mysteriously turned into bloody human flesh. Amazed by this information, Dr. Zugiba replied, "How and why a consecrated Host would

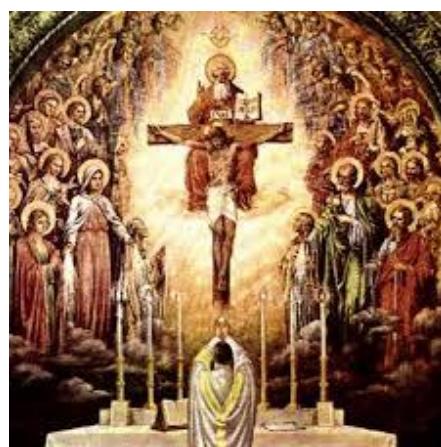
change its character and become living human flesh and blood will remain an inexplicable mystery to science—a mystery totally beyond her competence."

Only faith in the extraordinary action of a God provides the reasonable answer—faith in a God, who wants to make us aware that He is truly present in the mystery of the Eucharist.

The Eucharistic miracle in Buenos Aires is an extraordinary sign attested to by science. Through it, Jesus desires to arouse in us a lively faith in His real presence in the Eucharist. He reminds us that His presence is real, and not symbolic. Only with the eyes of faith do we see Him under appearance of the consecrated bread and wine. We do not see Him with our bodily eyes, since He is present in His glorified humanity. In the Eucharist Jesus sees and loves us and desires to save us.

Through such wondrous signs God calls souls to conversion. If Jesus causes the Host to become visible flesh and blood, a muscle that is responsible for the contraction of a human heart—a heart that suffers like that of someone who has been beaten severely about the chest, if He does such things, it is in order to arouse and quicken our faith in His real presence in the Eucharist.

He thus enables us to see that Holy Mass is a re-presentation (i.e. a making present) of the entire drama of our salvation: Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus says to his disciples, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe" (Jn 4: 48). There is no need to actively seek out wondrous signs. But if Jesus chooses to give them to us, then it behooves us to accept them with meekness and seek to understand what He desires to tell us by them. Thanks to these signs, many people have discovered faith in God—the One God in the Holy Trinity, who reveals His Son to us: Jesus Christ, who abides in the sacraments and teaches us through Holy Scripture and the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.



**Go to Confession This Easter.**



**The International Catholic Family Newsletter  
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**Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.**

**<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>**



**Pray the Rosary Daily to Save Souls.**

