

# Many rites, one faith

## The Eucharist transcends cultural and geographical boundaries

BY ANGELICA CORONA

**T**he Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life. ... For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.” (CCC 1324). The Church teaches that in every valid celebration of the Mass, Christ himself is made present sacramentally.

The centrality of the Eucharist transcends cultural and geographical boundaries. Across the globe, the Catholic Church celebrates the Eucharist in diverse liturgical rites that reflect the universality and unity of the faith. While all Catholic rites share the same essential elements — proclamation of the Word, offering of bread and wine, consecration by a ordained priest, and reception by the faithful — EWTN shares of the multiple expressions of the Eucharistic celebration and are categorized in four groups: Roman, Antiochian, Byzantine, and Alexandrian Rites.

The Latin Rite, particularly its Roman form, has been the liturgical rite used in the West. After the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), the Roman Rite was revised, resulting in the *Novus Ordo Missae* promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969. This Mass has an active participation by the faithful, the Liturgy of the Word, and the communal aspect of the Eucharist (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 14). There is also the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, often referred to as the Traditional Latin Mass, which follows the 1962 Missal of Pope John XXIII. This form is a contemplative tone and the use of Latin throughout. Pope Benedict XVI, in *Summorum Pontificum*, affirmed both forms as two usages of the same Roman Rite.

The Antiochian Rite is a Syriac rite that encompasses the Ma-

ronite, Chaldean, and Syro-Malabar Churches. It is attributed to St. James and the liturgy in Syriac, a language similar to Aramaic. In 1781, the Jesuit and Capuchin missionaries reunited the Church to Rome, after a separation after the Council of Chalcedon.

The Byzantine Rite, used by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Melkite Greek Catholic Church and Armenian Church, are attributed to St. John Chrysostom or St. Basil. This rite is known for its symbolism, iconography, chant, and elaborate ritual, emphasizing the heavenly nature of the liturgy. The Eucharist is received under both species (bread and wine) by intinction and distributed with a spoon

The Alexandrian Rite, used by the Coptic Catholic and Ethiopian Catholic Churches, has its roots in the ancient Christian communities of Egypt and Africa. The liturgy here includes prayers and hymns in Greek or Coptic and is attributed to St. Mark the Evangelist.

The Eucharist is the living memorial of Christ's love, offered to us in a sacramental form that transcends time and space. Whether celebrated in a cathedral in Rome, a Maronite parish in San Antonio, or a Syro-Malabar church in the Rio Grande Valley, the Mass makes present the same saving sacrifice. In its many rites, the Church's unity is not diminished but rather adorned by a tapestry of liturgical traditions. These diverse expressions of the Eucharist testify to the Church's universality and the inexhaustible richness of the mystery of Christ.

Sources: *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, *Summorum Pontificum*, Catholic News Agency, EWTN, Ascension Press, *New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia*

## Cast your net

Sacred Scriptures contain a deeper meaning. One account in particular is found in the Gospel of John. After the Resurrection of Christ, Jesus greets the disciples and asks them to cast their net, after which they haul in 153 fish (Jn 21:11).

St. Jerome's commentary states that this number equalled the recognized nations — a prefiguration that they would be fishers of men (Mt 28:19).

This family-friendly activity helps us reflect on this story.

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### Ingredients

- pretzels (of your choice)
- Goldfish crackers
- chocolate chips

### Directions

1. Preheat oven.
2. Spread pretzels on baking sheet.
3. Place chocolate over pretzels.
4. Place sheet in the oven for 1-2 minutes until chocolate melts.
5. Remove sheet from oven.
6. Place a Goldfish cracker on top of chocolate.
7. Remove from oven and let cool.

Ready to serve. Enjoy!

## RECIPE