

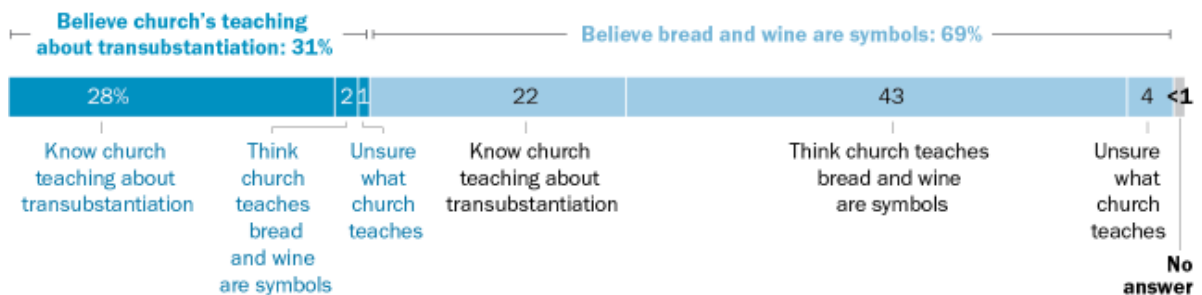
## Faith in Five – Adults Eucharistic Miracles



- As Catholics, we believe the consecrated host to be the Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Unfortunately, a 2019 Pew Research Center survey finds that most self-described Catholics do not believe this core teaching. Almost seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion “are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.” Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that “during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.” ([Source](#), image below)

### Seven-in-ten U.S. Catholics believe bread, wine used in Communion are symbolic

% of U.S. Catholics who ...



Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Feb. 4-19, 2019, among U.S. adults.

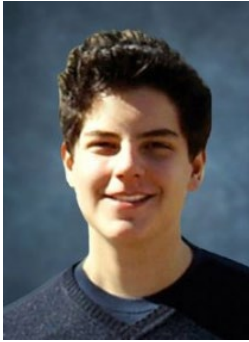
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- We experience a true Eucharistic miracle every day**, anywhere Holy Mass is celebrated, and the host is consecrated. “By the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood” (CCC 1376). While the appearances of bread and wine remain, the substance is changed through the power of God completely to the body and blood of Christ.
- The term “**Eucharistic miracle**” can also refer to extraordinary empirical signs of Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist, such as bleeding hosts or the transmutation of a consecrated host into a piece of cardiac muscle tissue ([Source](#)). The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines a miracle as “a sign or wonder, such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be attributed to divine power”.
- Establishing a miracle requires examination and rigor. As with all miracles, it starts with an investigation launched by the local bishop. He is the local leader who has the authority to declare an event as a miracle. The Holy See may take over the investigation, but generally leaves it to the bishop unless there is a just cause to step in. A team of

experts would be brought in to study the events from every angle, gathering all relevant data. This team would include priests, theologians, canon lawyers, medical professionals, molecular biologists and others. In most cases the Eucharistic miracle under scrutiny will be observed over a period of time. This will help determine if the miracle is in fact a miracle or can be explained by a natural phenomenon. Only after an unbiased study, conducted by a panel of experts, will the local bishop consider declaring a Eucharistic miracle.

5. A unique Eucharistic miracle in our day and age can be living proof that God not only continues to work miracles, but that the Eucharist is much more than a piece of bread. It is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ; we believe it is truly Christ by faith. In John 20:29, "Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Even if the miracles are not recognized by the Church, faith can be renewed by the experience. Our faith cannot be based on these types of miracles alone, but may move us to deeper appreciation of the great miracle of transubstantiation that happens at every Mass.
6. According to scholars, the first Eucharistic miracle recognized by the Catholic Church occurred in Lanciano, Italy, in about the year 700. This miracle is considered to be the most famous. This miracle happened when a monk, who had doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, saw the wine in the chalice turn into blood and the bread turn into flesh. Recently, after examining the relics still in existence, researchers concluded that they were indeed made of human tissue. The cardiac tissue contained arterioles, veins and nerve fibers. The blood type was AB, similar to the blood type found on the Shroud of Turin and consistently found in eucharistic miracles involving blood. Since this first miracle, 134 others of the same type have been recognized by the Church.
7. There have been instances where certain situations presented these type of miracles. Many of these cases, "occur in a similar context: either the celebrant had doubts about the Real Presence (at Bolsena, Italy), or the offerings were mistreated - either stolen, thrown away, abandoned or forgotten. This was the case in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1996, when then-Bishop Jorge Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) was an auxiliary bishop there: a consecrated host was found on the ground. Days later, it had turned into bloody flesh" ([Source](#)).
8. Other cases have shown that the miracles are verified samples of heart muscle, in a state of agony between life and death. A bleeding Host will exhibit a clot on the outside but fresh blood on the inside, as with a wound in the process of healing. The flesh is similar to what comes from the left ventricle of the heart and typically shows signs of trauma and even impending death. The appearance of bread and wine remains, although flesh was scientifically identified. Some eucharistic miracles have shown the Host to emit a bright light or an image. Finally, among those miracles declared, the sample does not deteriorate or decompose over time.

9. **Blessed Carlo Acutis** was an Italian teenager who died in 2006 at the age of 15 from



leukemia. It is said that although his parents were not particularly religious, throughout this young life, he sought the Eucharist at Mass or in prayer before it. Carlo believed he would become more holy in the Presence of the Lord and immersed himself in Eucharistic Adoration. The Eucharist was his “highway to heaven” and his life plan was “to always be close to Jesus”. Carlo also had a great love for the Virgin Mary and prayed the rosary devotedly. His zeal for the Faith impressed his family and peers. His love for video games and computers was also well known. With his amazing skill and talent, he created a website, listing 32 eucharistic miracles. Carlo is on the path to becoming the Catholic Church’s first millennial saint. In 2020, he is believed to be the youngest contemporary beatified.

Just before his death at 15, Carlo said, “I’m happy to die, because I’ve lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn’t have pleased God.” Although he died at a young age, Carlo’s personal holiness and discipleship left a lasting legacy. To this day, he remains an inspiration to many, especially for young Catholics.

10. For further study on eucharistic miracles: <http://www.miracolieucaristici.org/>  
<http://www.therealpresence.org/>  
Listen: <https://www.catholic.com/audio/cal/eucharistic-miracles>

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