

## Three Book Reviews by Pat Redick

**Eucharistic Miracles** by Joan Carroll Cruz published by TAN Books Copyright 1987  
**This is My Body, This is My Blood (Book I)** Copyright 1986 publisher is Journeys of Faith  
**This is My Body, This is My Blood (Book II)** Copyright 1994 publisher is Journeys of Faith  
**7 Secrets of the Eucharist** by Vinny Flynn Copyright 2006 publisher is Mercy Song IGNATIUS

### **THIS IS MY BODY, THIS IS MY BLOOD MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST BOOKS I AND II BY BOB & PENNY LORD**

A powerful amount of research went into these two labors of love by this seemingly never tiring husband and wife team. (Book I was copyrighted in 1986 and Book II in 1994; Penny Lord died on 1/21/2014 & Bob Lord died on 2/13/2016) Their videos on the Lives of so many Saints have been a joy to watch on EWTN for many years. These two have created a most complete picture of, not only the many centuries of The Catholic Church's verification of Miracles all over the world displaying the REALITY OF CHRIST'S TRUE BODY, BLOOD, SOUL, AND DIVINITY, but a collection of facts from the Old and New Testaments to teach us about this truth.

The first Book is a genealogy outlined in the Table of Contents of where the Miracle occurred, the year(s), and some historical background about these. They have enumerated each one, which holds a serene and fascinating message that is sure to strengthen readers' faith regarding the Eucharistic Mystery.

On November 8, 1601, a fire was accidentally set in the church at La Viluena, Spain. When townspeople and their priest looked in the Tabernacle, nothing was found. Later outside, and completely intact, the silver chest containing the pyx sat with the six small and one large consecrated hosts, which had not even suffered any discoloration. That night there were reports of miraculous healings and those who had walked on the hot embers of the fire were not burned. The Bishop who was contacted about this did not visit the town for seven years, but even after that amount of time the Hosts were still bright white, but he told the priest that they should be consumed and they were. The Miracle that lasted until today is the celebration still held on the feast of the fire.

In Daroca, Spain in the Year 1239, during a siege on the town, the parish priest wrapped consecrated hosts in the corporal and hid them under a rock. When the local soldiers were successful against the Moors, they asked for Eucharist, the priest recouped them and found they had begun to bleed. When analyzed, it was determined that the blood was that of a human. (The stained corporal may still be venerated in the Iglesia Colegial de Santa Maria de los Sagrados Corporales.)

These are just 2 of the 40 or more documented cases written of in these two books, so you may find some of the other ones more appealing in some way, but I wanted to give you a glimpse into their pages.

The subject in the many genre used is always treated with the utmost reverence.

Christ remains physically inside us for at least 15 minutes" after reception of Holy Communion. The footnote tells us St. Augustine wrote "...we do not consume Him, He consumes us."

The comingling of a small piece of a host with the wine at the consecration during Mass symbolizes the Resurrection.

I've heard it explained that when we witness the Eucharistic part of the Mass, we, in a sense, are leaving time and space and enter into the eschatological principle of timelessness. Much wisdom is wrapped up in recorded encounters with the special gift God allows for His beloved people to see, that they may believe. Abundant blessings are bestowed on all who receive in the right state of grace. I believe The Eucharist strengthens us for all of life's battles and gentle-izes us for our encounters of all sorts.

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**EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES  
AND EUCHARISTIC PHENOMENA IN THE LIVES OF SAINTS  
BY  
JOAN CARROLL CRUZ**

Except for a few observations of similarities, I will not try to dovetail these three books.

The Table of Contents in each book mentions miracles (some are overlapping) by place and year. Mr. & Mrs. Lord have added a few words about each there too. Many biblical references are made in all of the books.

Joan Carroll Cruz has lists in Part One of 33 Miracles from all over Europe between the 8<sup>th</sup> Century and 1970. Cruz's work also includes photos of great works of art and other relevant depictions at the end of each synopsis of the Miracle. She describes easy access points for adoration and viewing of remnants of the original miracles. These are a nice touch for those of us who will probably not visit each site personally.

Since this book was published later than the two written by Bob & Penny Lord, I will only use the scientific information found in it. While there are many attestations and written accounts from those who witnessed times when the host became flesh and the wine became blood, there are few actual scientific study results.

One stunning revelation in this book is that, under close scrutiny at the District Hospital of Cercee, blood stains from the second miracle at Stich, Germany in 1970 scientists "stated briefly that the stains consisted of human blood".

In 1257, Regensburg, Germany was home to two chapels-each named St. Savior. In 1255, on Holy Thursday, the priest at the oldest one was scheduled to take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick. On the way, the priest lost his footing and dropped the hosts into a stream. The Parishioners decided to build a chapel on the site where the Hosts had been scattered even though the priest had been able to retrieve all of them. About two years later, as another priest was experiencing doubt regarding the Eucharist, the corpus on the large altar crucifix seemed to come alive. One of the hands detached itself from the cross and took the chalice from his hands, and with shock and fear, the priest fervently repented and the chalice was given back to him. In 1260 the little chapel was renamed Cross Chapel.

A treasury of descriptions and pictures of the buildings, stained glass windows and interesting architectural features of churches associated with the miracles discussed in this work, flesh out it's many facets. The author also describes monstrances, ostensoriums and other reliquaries crafted for displaying the evidence of the miraculous happenings.

Confraternities and other associations initiated in some way with the Miracles are also reported in this extraordinary book of facts.

As with the Miracle of Middleburg-Louvain, Belgium, she notes instances whereby medals and pictures were made to honor and revere the event.

In the Seefeld, Austria Church there is even a ceiling relief, fresco, and stained glass windows depicting the Miracle of 1384.

A 1502 painted panel adorns a wall of the Choir. Interspersed with the narration about many aspects of the Eucharistic Miracle are lessons in history, wars and looting by enemies of Christianity. Many instances of conversion and the effects of repentance and forgiving are also related by Cruz.

In Chapter 33 titled *More Eucharistic Miracles*, Cruz writes about instances of floating or the suspension of monstrances-----Hosts placing themselves where they choose and lights illuminating the spot where discarded consecrated hosts were then found. Pope Gregory left written accounts of “the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass” in physical, spiritual, supernatural and demonic healings.

I feel St. Theresa of Avila’s quote sums up the central lesson of the three books “....when I hear others say they wish they had been living when You were on earth, I laugh to myself, for I know that I possess You as truly in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. John Bosco spoke of three “springs” to the supernatural life: confession, devotion of the Blessed Mother, and reception of Holy Communion.

The author near the beginning of the Ecstasies and Raptures Chapter, cites St. Paul’s experience related to this in 2 *Cor.* 12:2-4.

An outline of fasts undertaken by a dozen or more saints, relate their ability to live for extended times with only Holy Communion for sustenance. Miracles and prayers answered due to this are also recorded in this work. Of St. Ita (Ida) one of the nuns at the convent she founded asked, “why is it that God loves thee so much...thou healest all manner of diseases, thou prophesiest...the angels converse with thee.

Recounting of Hosts being delivered to a jail cell by a heavenly being, an angel, and even from Jesus’ hand as happened to St. Lawrence of Brindisi stress the importance of Eucharist. Narration on saints, who perceived Jesus at differing ages, usually emitting from Hosts, is another dimension discussed. Fascinating accounts of Saints, already canonized, having the gifts of tears, fire and light was not surprising since they were almost pre-qualified.

Throughout the book, the author quotes from Saints’ biographies and autobiographies. I found these very interesting in the Section on Levitation, since she pointed out there are records of more than two hundred saints and holy people, who experienced this. I noticed there were several saints, who qualified to be mentioned in more than one of the categories explored in this ambitious undertaking. The saints, who are beautifully quoted, help us understand the importance of daily mass.

The roots, progression of practices, and indulgences granted for celebrations regarding the Eucharist, such as Forty hours devotions, are noted.

John’s gospel is used to stress all the ways Christ taught us about this Sacrament.

Overall I found all the pages in this book contained at least one nugget of truth and guidance that will help readers grow in devotion to God with us in this very special way.

I read with interest about the stigmatist St. Ludwina, since that was the given name of my grandmother, whom I never met. The saint's well documented life story is told in the "Eucharist Fasts" chapter of this book as she was able to live on the Eucharist alone for 19 years.

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I wrote this before reading the above mentioned three books, with full knowledge that I cannot possibly live up to the ideal spouted in it-it's only a poetic vision of the way we should be after receiving such a non-understandable gift.

### EUCHARIST POEM

COME INTO MY BEING  
SPREAD YOUR LOVE  
THROUGHOUT MY SEEING  
MAKE ME PEACEFUL LIKE A DOVE  
STRENGTHEN ME FOR THE FIGHT  
CURE MY ILLS OF BODY, SPIRIT,  
MIND, EMOTION, AND ALL SINFUL FLIGHT

LET ME FEEL NO FEAR, EVERYWHERE FIT  
BECAUSE YOU ARE SO INTIMATELY  
WITHIN ME AT HOLY COMMUNION  
LET JOY PERMEATE COMPLETELY  
MY LOVE OF ALL IN CHRISTIAN UNION!

YOU MAKE US AWARE OF THE ONENESS  
OF GOD, MAN, AND NATURE  
THROUGH JOINING OUR BODY AND SOUL  
BY YOUR CONTINUAL PRESENCE  
WITHIN US THROUGH THIS UNIQUE GIFT  
OF YOUR OWN BODY AND BLOOD  
IN THE EUCHARIST!

By pat nee deitz



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