

Book Review by Pat Redick

7 Secrets of the Eucharist by Vinny Flynn

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Fr. Mitch Pacwa in his introduction to this book wrote "...the genius of this book is its ability to summon all Catholics to this deeper relationship with Jesus Christ hidden in the Eucharist. As Padre Pio explained this miracle is not only Calvary, but paradise with the presence of Mary and the whole celestial court at each Mass. St. Therese also experienced this at her First Communion. She realized, not only Jesus but the Holy Spirit was also present. She even shed tears knowing that her deceased mother was there too.

In Section 35F of St. Faustina's Diary, she wrote only her Divine Lord could permit such a gift be provided for us.

A brief outline of the Seven Secrets is:

-Secret one - Jesus is alive among the angels and saints

-Secret two – Christ is not alone. Flynn looks to the Bible, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, St. Faustina's Diary, the writings of other Saints, Popes and Councils, especially noted is the Council of Trent for aid in widening his outlines of each of these Secrets.

-Secret three – There is only one Mass. The eternal now explains how with God there is no time. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated through church liturgy on earth and in heaven.

-Secret four – The Eucharist is not just one miracle, but a complexity of them. He actually has outlined nine of them, while acknowledging the list is inexhaustible. Pope Saint John Paul II explained "it is the Greatest Treasure on Earth".

-Secret five – We don't just receive – this would be a "passive" action. We join with the Resurrected Christ and experience "a uniquely personal encounter with God Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Flynn outlines five minimum requirements, as described in the Catholic Church Catechism, for a worthy reception of Communion.



-Secret six – Every reception is unique. This chapter helps the reader become aware of the need to be in the right frame of mind to fully receive the fruit – "the flood of miracles of grace" Jesus wants to pour out on the communicant. Likewise as 1 Cor. 11-27 explains, there will be consequences for those who receive unworthily. We need to recognize our unworthiness as is acknowledged at every Mass with the centurion's words found in Matt. 8:8.

-Secret seven – There is no limit to the number of times we can receive and in this informative chapter, the author points out the differences between sacramental and spiritual eating of the body and drinking of the blood of Jesus. St. Faustina wrote "I have come to know that Holy Communion remains in me until the next reception of Holy Communion". Examples of parishioners being moved to tears when, for whatever the reason, they couldn't receive, and after the impediment was resolved, they once again could experience this holy union.

The Afterward, Fr. Hal's Grits, quotes more from St. Faustina's Diary. I have read it twice, but since every page is so full of heavenly wisdom, I could only recommend reading it but would never attempt to do a review of it.

For further study, this book contains interesting answers to questions you might have, after it whet your curiosity about any of the secrets, in the last section titled Notes, Sources and References.

I would suggest overall reading this work is a faith strengthening encounter with the most miraculous tenet of Catholicism.

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