

# Communion in the Hand is Sacrilegious

Excerpts from  
Catholic Family News articles  
by John Vennari

*"Out of reverence towards this Sacrament, nothing touches It but what is consecrated."*

... Saint Thomas Aquinas

**D**o Catholic authorities and educators not know that Communion in the Hand was condemned by the Synod of Rouen in 650 A.D. to halt widespread abuses that occurred from this practice, and as a safeguard against sacrilege?

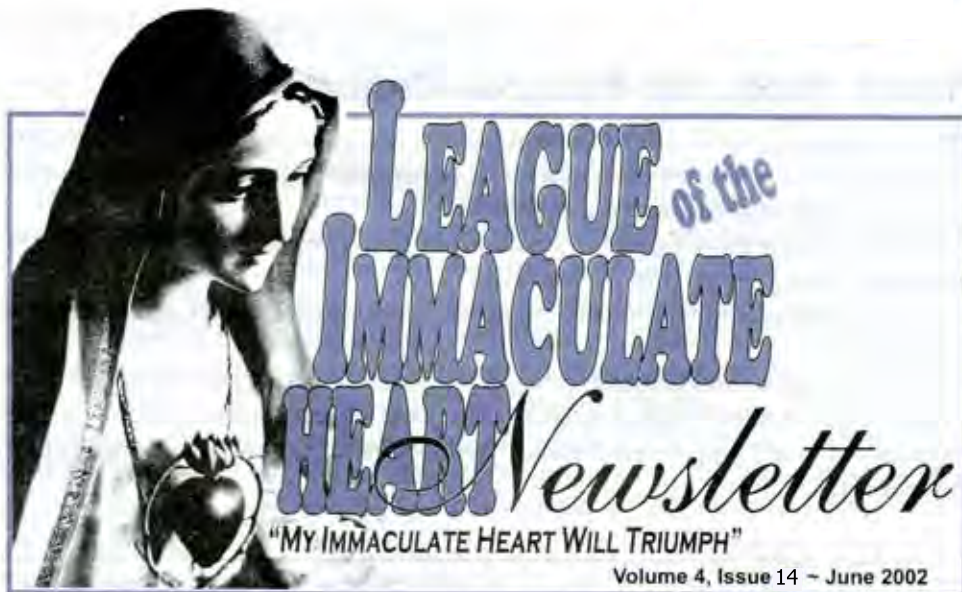
Are Church authorities unaware that Protestant denominations, beginning with Martin Luther in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, reintroduced Communion in the Hand to manifest their belief once and for all that there is no such thing as Transubstantiation and Holy Orders, and the bread used during services is just ordinary bread, and the minister is just an ordinary man with no God-given power to consecrate?

The Council of Trent taught infallibly, "If anyone says that, after the consecration is completed, the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are not in the admirable Sacrament of the Eucharist, but (are there) only during the use, whilst it is being taken, and not either before or after; and that, in the Hosts, or consecrated particles, which are reserved or which remain after Communion, the true Body of the Lord remains not; let him be anathema." (Canon IV)

Throughout the centuries, our Fathers have told us that the Holy Eucharist is truly the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Popes, Bishops and priests have taught this by example – especially by the celebration of the Old Latin Mass.

The introduction of Communion in the Hand and lay ministers of the Eucharist shows an arrogant disregard for what our Fathers taught us. This complete defiance and contempt for centuries of Catholic teaching and practice resembles the philosophy of New Paganism.

Communion in the Hand was introduced under a false ecumenism, allowed to grow due to weakness in authority,



approved through compromise and a false sense of toleration, and has led to profound irreverence and indifference toward the Blessed Sacrament as the liturgical order of our day and the disgrace of our age.

Communion in the Hand is not mentioned in a single document of the Second Vatican Council and before the Council there is no historic record of Bishops, priests or laity petitioning anyone for the introduction of this practice. Controversy surrounds the claim that Communion in the Hand was practiced in the early Church, but if it was it was instituted by the Arians as a sign of disbelief in the Divinity of Jesus Christ.

## How Did Today's Communion in the Hand Come About?

Four hundred years ago Communion in the Hand was introduced as a new form worship by men whose motives were rooted in defiance of Catholicism. The Protestant revolutionaries ("reformers") wanted to show two things:

1) That they believed there was no such thing as "Transubstantiation" and that the bread used at Communion time was ordinary bread.

2) Their belief that the minister of Communion is no different in essence from laymen.

The Protestant Minister is just an ordinary man who leads the hymns, reads the lessons and gives sermons to stir up the convictions of believers. He can't change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord, he can't bless, he can't forgive sins. He is not a vehicle for sacramental grace. Commu-

*continued on page 2*

## In This Issue:

<b>Communion in the Hand is Sacrilegious</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Apostasy</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>News from the Fatima Center</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Saint Titus, Disciple of Saint Paul</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Practice of Three Hail Marys</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Letters to the Editor</b> .....	<b>4</b>



## News from the Fatima Center

There is barely time to catch our breath after a late-night *Crusader* deadline before the next project demands our attention. Either the press department is waiting for an information package so they can advertise Father Gruner's next Rosary Rally, or page proofs have to be okayed for a Newsletter.

Because of all the activity going on regarding the unjust persecution of Father Gruner, the Publishing Department at the Fatima Center can barely keep up with the workload.

It is vitally important that we speak out in defense of the good priests, and there are many. That means more letters, and more deadlines.

There are several projects sitting on our shelves, some of the bigger ones have been collecting dust for a while because of a lack of funds. A good example is producing the talks at our "Rome Conference 2001" in book form. Because of the terrorist attacks of September 11, many people were unable to hear first-hand the only way to a lasting peace. This is a book the world needs to read. The sooner the better. †

### COMMUNION IN THE HAND IS SACRILEGIOUS

*continued from page 1*

nion in the Hand was a recognizable anti-Catholic practice rooted in disbelief in the real presence of Christ and the priesthood.

After Vatican II, some ecumenically-minded priests in Holland started giving Communion in the Hand in imitation of Protestant practice. The Bishops, rather than do their duty and condemn the abuse, tolerated it. Because Church leaders allowed the abuse to go unchecked, the practice spread to Germany, Belgium and France. Pope Paul VI (because of the indignation of the Faithful) polled the bishops of the world on this issue, and they voted overwhelmingly to retain the traditional practice of receiving Holy Communion on the Tongue.

On May 28, 1969, the Pope promulgated *Memoriale Domine* which says in part "the Supreme Pontiff judged that the long-received manner of ministering Holy Communion to the Faithful should not be changed. The Apostolic See therefore strongly urges Bishops, priests and people to observe zealously this law."

This was the age of compromise, and the document contained the seed of its own destruction, because the Instruction went on to say that where the abuse had already become firmly established, it could be legalized by a two-thirds majority in a secret ballot of the national bishops conference. Thus the rebellion was not only tolerated, but legalized, and we have Communion in the Hand today.

#### A Crisis of Conscience

The Faithful are told it is an optional practice. Priests are falsely instructed that they must administer Communion in the Hand, whether they like it or not, to anyone who requests it, thereby throwing many good priests into an agonizing crisis of conscience. A very wise Archbishop shrewdly observed that the masterstroke of satan was to sow disobedience to Catholic tradition through obedience.

Lay people giving out Holy Communion during Mass was rightly considered an unthinkable act of sacrilege and irrev-

erence only 30 years ago. But now, lay people administering the Blessed Sacrament is an ordinary sight in the average *Novus Ordo* parish church, and most Catholics think nothing of it.

#### Unsuccessful Papal Intervention

This unlawful abuse is so well established that even Pope John Paul II, who made at least a paper attempt to curb the abuse, was completely unsuccessful. In his 1980 letter *Dominicae Cenae*, the Pope restated the Church's teaching that "to touch the sacred species and to administer them with their own hands is a privilege of the ordained." This was taken as an unwelcome and unheeded suggestion by the hierarchy and clergy of Western countries.

The Sacraments are the most precious gems the Church possesses, and the Holy Eucharist is the greatest of all the Sacraments. It must be treated with all the reverence and homage It deserves. And all those pre-Vatican II barriers that prevented desecration are indispensable to the life of the Church and the holiness of the Faithful. †

### *Apostasy*

Dark lead gray the night clouds hover,  
Shroud the hills bereft of grace,  
Stark despair and still gloom cover  
Black the land, all joy efface.

Dark stand now the east-off churches,  
Rotting boards block stained glass light,  
In cold agony man searches  
For lost beauty in the blight.

Everywhere the dark encroaches,  
Bloodless shadows haunt the earth,  
Fast the dreaded hour approaches,  
Of Antichrist's ungodly birth.

... Susan Claire Potts

## Saint Titus, Disciple of Saint Paul, Bishop, January 4

Saint Titus was born a Gentile, and seems to have been converted by Saint Paul, who calls him his son in Christ. His extraordinary virtue and merit gained him the particular esteem and affection of this apostle, for we find him employed as his secretary and interpreter; Saint Paul calls Titus his brother, and co-partner in his labors; commends exceedingly his solicitude and zeal for the salvation of his brethren, and in the tenderest manner expresses the comfort and support he found in him. On a certain occasion, he declared that he found no rest in his spirit because at Troas he had not met Titus. In the year 51, Saint Titus accompanied Saint Paul to the council that was held at Jerusalem, on the subject of the Mosaic rites. Though the apostle had consented to the circumcision of Timothy, in order to render his ministry acceptable among the Jews, he would not allow the same in Titus, apprehensive of giving thereby a sanction to the error of certain false brethren, who contended that the ceremonial institutes of the Mosaic law were not abolished by the law of grace. Towards the close of the year 56, Saint Paul sent Titus from Ephesus to Corinth, with full commission to remedy the several subjects of scandal, and also to allay the dissensions in that church. Saint Titus was there received with great testimonies of respect, and was perfectly satisfied with regard to the penance and submission of the offenders; but could not be prevailed upon to accept from them any present, not even so much as his own maintenance. His love for that church was very considerable, and at their request he interceded with Saint Paul for the pardon of the incestuous man. He was sent the same year by the apostle a second time to Corinth, to prepare the alms that church designated for the poor Christians at Jerusalem. All these particulars we learn from Saint Paul's two epistles to the Corinthians.

Saint Paul, after his first imprisonment, returning from Rome into the east, stayed on the island of Crete, to preach there the faith of Jesus Christ: but the necessities of other churches requiring his presence elsewhere, he ordained his beloved disciple Titus bishop of that island, and left him to finish the work he had successfully begun. Saint Paul ordered Saint Titus to establish priests — that is, bishops, as Saint Jerome, Saint Chrysostom, and Theodoret expound it — in

all the cities of the island. He sums up the principal qualities necessary for a bishop, and gives him particular advice touching his own conduct to his flock, exhorting him to hold to strictness of discipline, but seasoned with lenience. This epistle contains the rules of episcopal life, and, as such, we may regard it as faithfully copied in the life of this disciple. In the year 65 we find Saint Titus sent by Saint Paul to preach in Dalmatia. He again returned to Crete, and settled the faith in that and the adjacent little island. All that can be affirmed further of him is, that he finished a laborious and holy life by a happy death in Crete, in a very advanced old age. The body of Saint Titus was kept with great veneration



in the Cathedral of Gortyna, the ruins of which city, the ancient metropolis of the island, situated six miles from Mount Ida, are still very remarkable. This city being destroyed by the Saracens in 823, these relics could never since be discovered: only the head of our saint was conveyed safe to Venice, and is venerated in the Ducal Basilica of Saint Mark. Saint Titus has been looked upon in Crete as the first Archbishop of Gortyna, which metro political See is fixed at Candia, since this new metropolis was built by the Saracens. The cathedral of the city of Candia, which now gives its name to the whole island, bears his name. The Turks leave this church in the hands of the Christians. The city of Candia was built in the 9th Century, seventeen miles from the ancient Gortyna.

When Saint Paul assumed Titus to the ministry, this disciple was already a saint, and the apostle found in him all the conditions which he charged him so severely to require in those whom he should honor with the pastoral charge. All who undertake the pastoral charge, besides a thorough acquaintance with the divine law, and the maxim and spirit of the gospel, and experience, discretion, and a knowledge of the heart of man, or his passions, must have seriously endeavored to die to themselves by the habitual practice of self-denial, and a rooted humility; and must have been so well exercised in holy contemplation as to retain that habitual disposition of soul amidst exterior employments, and in them to be able still to say, "I sleep, and my heart watches"; that is, I sleep to all earthly things, and am awake only to my heavenly friend and spouse, being absorbed in the thoughts and desires of the most ardent love. ✠



**Dear Father Gruner,**

First I want to thank you for the gift of "The Golden Key to Heaven." I have been looking for this book for some time. I can't tell you how much I will treasure it.

I pray the Rosary every night for the conversion of Russia. I pray every morning in my morning prayer for you and your Apostolate. I pass *The Fatima Crusader* on to friends to read.

God Bless you and your work.

*Elizabeth K., CA*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

I want to thank you for the wonderful last issue of Our Lady's magazine - *The Fatima Crusader*.

I hope that you will always continue to publish this wonderful magazine, because it helps to keep one on track when it is so very easy to go off on the wrong road, because one does not receive the correct guidance. May God bless you, Father, in your wonderful work, and may you be able to continue in spite of such terrible persecution.

I thank you for the help you have given me through the years.

Sincerely,

*Nanette I., NY*

**Dear Father,**

I am very happy to write you this letter and I know it will meet you in good condition of health and my greetings to all members of the Church and my greetings to all. May Almighty God stay with them and bless all the ministry. I heard your program on RADIO AFRICA and the program touched my heart and changed my life for the better from that day. I keep listening to the program on RADIO AFRICA.

May God Bless you.

*Popoola G., Africa*

**Dear Father Gruner,**

I must tell you something about myself. I am an old

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pensioner, 77 years old, and a widow for the past ten years ...

I want to thank you very much for your video tape I received yesterday. I must watch it again and then pass it around.

We had Saint Theresa Relic here and all around Ireland and so maybe God will give more priests to us.

I feel I know you Father from your video and I'm also starting on your book *Fatima Priest*. God Bless and reward you and help you in your great work.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bridie G., Ireland*

**Dear Friends,**

Just a few lines to tell you how much I appreciate (and agree with) all the very fine articles by Christopher Ferrara, being included in your website. The more facts that can be revealed ... and passed on to priests and laity — concerning what is happening in our beloved Church — the better! Reading of such things makes me (and I hope others too) realize how much prayer is needed — especially for those fighting on the front-line and being thus easy targets for the enemies of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother and very much the enemies of the Holy Spirit.

I know, having had my own printing works for many years, that for a good publication to go out means good team-work and I thank God that Father Gruner has obviously got such a good and truly Catholic army of helpers.

With love to you ALL — from another of Our Lady's little helpers.

*Nanette from the Internet*

## Heaven Opened by the Practice of The Three Hail Marys

The practice of praying The Three Hail Marys was revealed to St. Melchilde (13th Century) with the promise of a good death, if she was faithful to it every day.

While Saint Gertrude the Great sang the Hail Mary, at the Matins of the Annunciation, she suddenly saw spring out from the Heart of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, three bright flames which penetrated the Heart of the Holy Virgin. Then she heard the following words:

"After the Power of the Father, the Wisdom of the Son and the merciful Tenderness of the Holy Spirit, nothing approaches the Power, the Wisdom and the merciful Tenderness of Mary."

Let us pray Three Hail Marys at Noon each day, that the Pope will consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary according to Our Lady of Fatima's specific request.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us. †