

Chapter 7 **Bread of Life**

He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *Luke 24:35b*

To the Parents:

In chapter 7, your child learned the following:

- Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.
- Jesus' ministry included sharing meals with all sorts of people.
- Catholics are sent to be Jesus' presence in the world.

In the Gospel of John, the institution of the Eucharist takes place in the sixth chapter, which focuses on how Jesus feeds his followers with the Bread of Life that is his very presence, his very flesh and blood. The miraculous story of the loaves and fishes recounts the generosity of Jesus and his friends as they struggle to find food for the crowds who had gathered. Jesus gave thanks before sharing the bread. In the Eucharist, we also give thanks for the real presence of Jesus in our lives.

Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine at the liturgy. This mystery can be partially understood in observing the action of the assembly during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. When the eucharistic ministers offer the bread and the wine, they proclaim, "The Body of Christ" and "The Blood of Christ," and each person responds with a clear "Amen." This assent means not only that there is a belief but also a strong intention to go forth to be the presence of Jesus in the world, loving and caring for others as Jesus did.

With Your Child:

1. When you attend Mass, pay special attention to the Liturgy of the Eucharist and talk about Jesus' presence in it.
2. Prepare a meal together and invite both loved ones and new acquaintances to eat together at the table.
3. Write a prayer to say before meals, with special thanks for the company and the nourishment God has provided for you.
4. Read the story of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin on the Review and Explore page.