

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS



# EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS

Twenty Stories of Devotion to Jesus



MEREDITH HINDS

Illustrated by Adelee Hude

TAN Books

Gastonia, North Carolina

*Eucharistic Saints: Twenty Stories of Devotion to Jesus* © 2023 Meredith Hinds

All rights reserved. With the exception of short excerpts used in critical review, no part of this work may be reproduced, transmitted, or stored in any form whatsoever, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Creation, exploitation, and distribution of any unauthorized editions of this work, in any format in existence now or in the future—including but not limited to text, audio, and video—is prohibited without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible—Second Catholic Edition (Ignatius Edition), copyright © 2006 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Illustrations by Adalee Hude

Cover design and interior layout by Jordan Avery

ISBN: 978-1-5051-3341-7

Kindle ISBN: 978-1-5051-3391-2

ePUB ISBN: 978-1-5051-3390-5

Published in the United States by

TAN Books

PO Box 269

Gastonia, NC 28053

[www.TANBooks.com](http://www.TANBooks.com)

Printed in the United States of America

For the Children's Holy Hour families of Holy Apostles Catholic Church

—M.H.

For my other parents, Hal and Robin Hude.

With love,

—A.H.

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”

Matthew 26:26–28



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you...

Joanne and Sonia, for loaning your books.

Hannah, for the encouragement and the keen observations.

Patrick, for coming up with the idea in the first place.

Ingrid, for believing in me.

Dad, for your countless gifts.

All you little ones, for coming to see Jesus in the monstrance during holy hour. Thank you for every moment you spent with Him who says, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

And Jonny, of course, for everything.

—M.H.

Thank you...

Hal and Robin, for all of the babysitting while I drew!

Patrick, for involving me in this project.

Randy, for all of your love and support.

And for the prayers of my saint friends and inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

—A.H.







*Before We Begin* . . . . . xi

Reward—Saint Thomas Aquinas . . . . . 1

Angel of Peace—Saint Jacinta Marto . . . . . 5

Home—Saint Benedict Joseph Labre . . . . . 9

Held Up—Saint Catherine of Siena . . . . . 13

Ascension—Blessed Imelda Lambertini . . . . . 17

Brother Paschal—Saint Paschal Baylon . . . . . 21

First Communion—Venerable Augustine Tolton . . . . . 25

Visitor—Saint Alphonsus Liguori . . . . . 29

Listening—Saint Peter Julian Eymard . . . . . 33

Danger at the Door—Saint Clare of Assisi . . . . . 37

Bread of Life—Saint Tarcisius . . . . . 41

Little Children—Pope Saint Pius X . . . . . 45

*Corpus Domini*—Pope Saint Gregory the Great . . . . . 49

Enough—Saint Teresa of Kolkata . . . . . 53

Calvary—Saint Pio of Pietrelcina . . . . . 57

Roses—Saint Thérèse of Lisieux . . . . . 61

Miracle—Blessed Carlo Acutis . . . . .	65
Feast—Saint Ignatius of Antioch . . . . .	69
Passing By—Pope Saint John Paul II . . . . .	73
Bread from Heaven—Saint Ambrose . . . . .	77
<i>More about the Stories</i> . . . . .	80
<i>Bibliography</i> . . . . .	86
<i>About the Author and Illustrator</i> . . . . .	92



## BEFORE WE BEGIN

It would be a little strange to try to make a list of all the saints who loved the Eucharist, because that list would be as long as the list of all the saints!

So, think of these twenty saint stories, some of which you might already know, as a starting place.

Each one of these saints showed great devotion to Jesus. Their actions revealed how much they loved Him in the Eucharist; they adored Him, they protected Him, they celebrated Him, they spoke to Him, they asked Him for help, and they listened to Him.

You can look for Jesus in the Eucharist in the life of any saint. He's never very far away.

As you listen to their stories, remember this: we can become devoted to Him just like the saints were. With the help of their prayers, we can see the Eucharist for what it really is: Jesus Himself, now and always.





*Saint Thomas Aquinas (ah-KWEYE-nuhs), a priest and Dominican friar, wrote about many topics important to the Church, including the Eucharist. His thoughts can be found in his comprehensive Summa Theologica. One of his many titles is “Doctor of the Eucharist.” He died in 1274.*

Winter, 1273. The Dominican Friary in Naples, Italy.

Light poured out of the chapel entrance.

Brother Leo saw the flickers on the stone from the library. “Could I have forgotten one of the candles again?” he asked himself. Brother Leo was always forgetting things. Taking his turn as the chapel sacristan was something of a nightmare for the young Dominican.

He had extinguished each of the candles in the chapel on his way toward the library, but he had been in a hurry. After dinner, he’d realized with a sudden lurch of his stomach that he’d left several important books out on a table during his afternoon research. Quickly, he mapped out his route around the friary: he’d finish his duties in the chapel, then return to the library, then go up the stairs to join the other brothers for night prayers. He might even make it on time. But when he arrived at the library table he’d used earlier, he found the books all back in their places. He wasn’t sure what to make of it.

“Well,” Brother Leo thought, “might as well go back to the chapel. At least I won’t have to explain the waste of beeswax in the morning.”

As he approached the opening of the chapel, he heard a low, unhurried voice raised in song:

*“Tantum ergo sacramentum . . .”*

Brother Leo drew to one side of the entrance, hiding in the shadows. He sank to his knees. Brother Thomas was at the front of the chapel, adoring the Blessed Sacrament alone. He sang a hymn he'd written, the one the brothers sang together at the Benediction. Brother Leo, ever so quietly, sang a few of the lines with Brother Thomas.

*“ . . . Praestet fides supplementum*

*Sensuum defectui.”*

“Faith for all defects supplying, where the feeble senses fail,” Brother Leo whispered to himself.

Brother Leo loved and respected Brother Thomas; everyone did, even kings of the nearby nations. Even though he was too afraid to ask Brother Thomas a question directly, he'd pore over the great man's writings when he needed answers.

Lately, Brother Leo had been reading what Brother Thomas wrote about the Eucharist. If the Eucharist was the flesh and blood of Jesus, why did it still taste like bread and wine? Brother Leo felt like he should have a simple answer for this. He had gone to Mass for his whole life. Something Brother Thomas wrote helped him understand: “I answer that, it is evident to sense that all the accidents of bread and wine remain after consecration . . .” The Eucharist still tasted like ordinary bread and wine, even after the consecration. The change in the Host was deeper than what Brother Leo could experience with his own senses: a greater change than a change in taste, or appearance, or smell. Like Brother Thomas had written, “Faith is not contrary to the senses, but concerns things to which sense does not reach.”

God could make changes beyond the reach of the senses. So, even though Brother Leo could not sense a change in the Host, he could believe that God had changed It. It was a comfort to him that someone had already explored questions like these and written everything down. Something about Brother Thomas's writings made the truth firm, just like the stone entryway he was leaning against.

*Wait a minute.*

Brother Leo squinted, rubbed his eyes, and then opened them wide—Brother Thomas was rising into the air!

A voice echoed around the chapel, a voice that, unless Brother Leo was mistaken, came from the crucifix over the altar.

“Thou hast written well of me, Thomas. What reward wouldst thou have?”

Brother Leo would later try to describe the majesty and humility that he heard in that voice, but he never found a description he liked. What he remembered for certain was Brother Thomas’s reply:

“Nothing but you, Lord.”

*TANTUM ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui:  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui:  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.  
Genitori, Genitoque  
Laus et iubilatio,  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio:  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudatio.  
Amen.*

DOWN in adoration falling,  
Lo! the sacred Host we hail,  
Lo! oe’r ancient forms departing  
Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying,  
Where the feeble senses fail.  
To the everlasting Father,  
And the Son Who reigns on high  
With the Holy Spirit proceeding  
Forth from each eternally,  
Be salvation, honor blessing,  
Might and endless majesty.  
Amen.

