



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 16, 2015

Dear Parish Family,

We hear these challenging words of Jesus in today's gospel:

"Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."
(John 6, 58)

Most of you know that on the first of July my mother went home to God. On that day, I celebrated Mass in her presence, anointed her with the oil of the sick, and placed a very small fragment of the host in her mouth. That last *Holy Communion* is called *viaticum* - food for the journey home. It is truly the *last rite* of the Church. Have you ever noticed the priest break the host and place a small piece in the chalice?

"This custom originated in a practice called 'fermentum.' In the early Church at Rome (when the Christian population was small), a part of the consecrated bread broken at the Pope's Mass was taken by deacons to other Churches in Rome where it was placed in the chalice during the singing of the Lamb of God at Masses celebrated at those other Churches."
(Irwin, Models of the Eucharist, p. 76)

We are reminded at this moment of our *oneness* with the Church universal and of our *communion with the saints*. I find this latter article of the Creed most consoling when reflecting upon my mother to whom I would give a similar small particle of the host. The Eucharist forms us as Church and unites us with believers throughout the present world and for all the ages!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—August 16, 2015, St. Patrick's Church,
Olney, Maryland

