

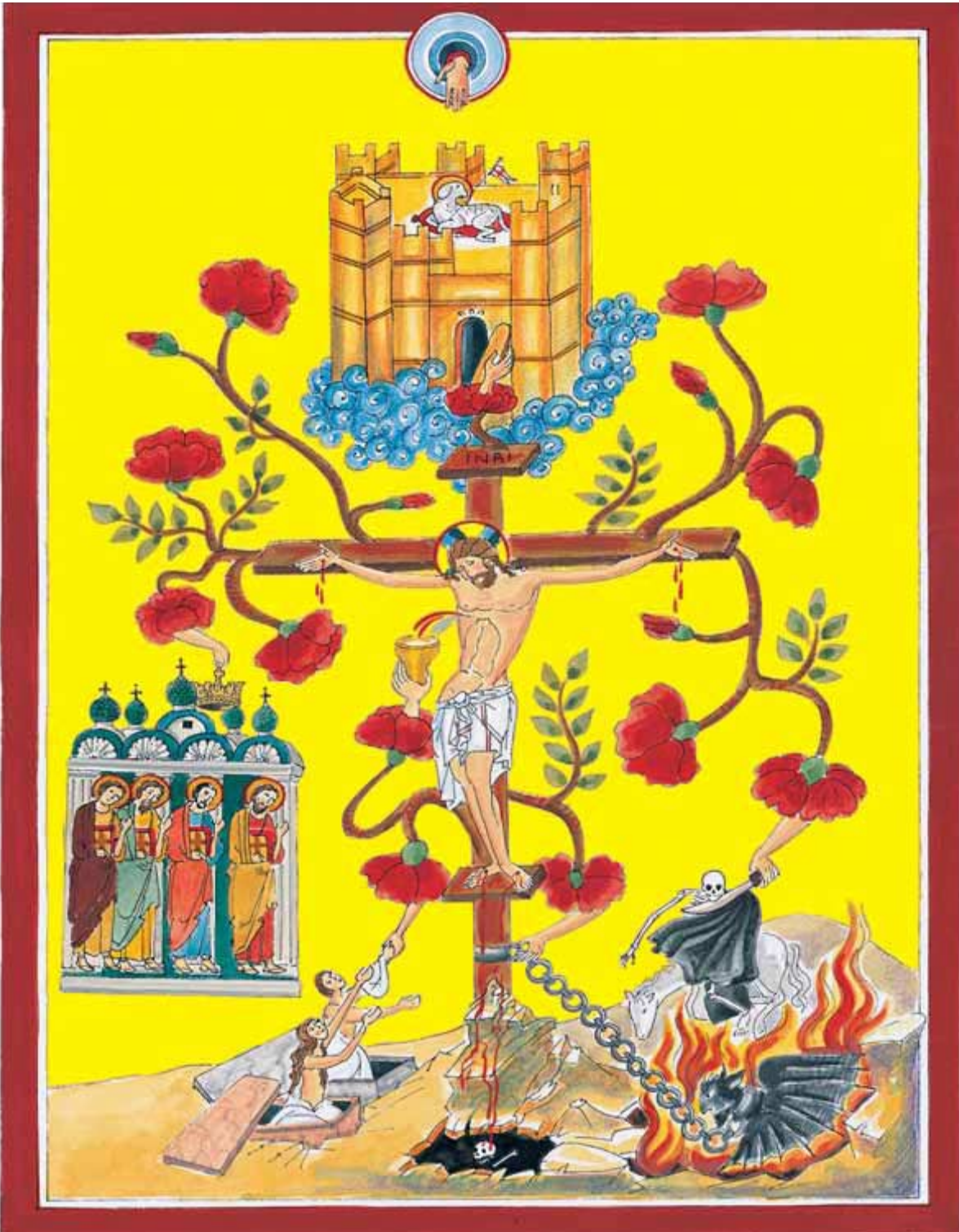


Part Two

The newness of the Eucharist

8 What precisely can we say is the newness of the Eucharist?

Jesus, the only Son of the Father, has accomplished in his very person the new and eternal Covenant between God and humanity, and has done this by the total gift of himself in the Sacrifice of the Cross, freeing men and women from sin and from the shadows of death.



Why is the Eucharist still celebrated today?

The Church is called to celebrate the *Eucharistic Banquet* day after day until He comes again. This is an explicit commandment of the Lord Jesus who, upon instituting the Eucharist, said: **“Do this in memory of me”** (Lk 22,19). For this reason, the Eucharist has been handed down to us by the Apostles and their successors. Therefore, when St. Paul was speaking about the bread and the wine, wrote: **“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you”** (1 Cor 11,23). This is a Sacred Tradition which has been transmitted to us faithfully from one generation to another, until to our present day.







*“The Sacred Tradition transmits the Word of God which has been entrusted by Christ the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It transmits it to the successors of the Apostles so that, enlightened by the Spirit of truth, they may faithfully preserve, expound, and spread it abroad by their preaching”
(CCC n. 81).*



10 Is there any prayer that is equivalent to the Holy Mass?

The Holy Mass surpasses all other prayers in terms of their importance; in fact no other action of the Church can match its efficacy to the same title and degree. The Mass is the most precious gift the Church could possess as it makes its journey through history. The Mass contains all the spiritual riches of the Church because it makes all the members into one body in Christ.

11 Why does the Eucharist surpass all the other sacraments?

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is “**a more consoling source of devotion, a lovelier object of contemplation and holier in what it contains than all the other sacraments; for it contains Christ himself and it is a kind of consummation of the spiritual life and in a sense the goal of all the sacraments**” (PAUL VI, *Mysterium fidei*, 38). In order to understand more fully why the Eucharist surpasses all the others Sacraments and all the other prayers it is appropriate to look more deeply at the various elements that constitute the Holy Mass. This is what we will do next.

