

## ***Laudato Si'* Mysticism 11**

### **THE EUCHARIST**

The Eucharist is embedded in history: it stretches all the way back to the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago and also points forward to the divinisation of all things, the great cosmic banquet, when everything will rejoice together.

So the Pope can say

**'The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. In the bread of the Eucharist, creation is projected towards divinisation, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself' (236).**

Carl Sagan offers a homely image which can help us catch on to the Pope's statement. He says, *'If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe'*. Can this be true? Well, a *pie* needs flour, and if you want to make your own flour from scratch, you'll need wheat and milling equipment. To get that, you'll need farms and metal, soil and minerals and farming skills. Likewise for the apples—and don't forget some bees for pollination work! You'll need to organise the climate, else nothing will grow. So throw in the sun, clouds, rain, and seasons. Invent electricity, add water, a few cloves, and sugar to taste. To truly say you made the pie, you'll have to make the primary elements, which you'd sweep up from dead stars. And don't forget to create a dynamic order so everything happens at the right time.

Now give yourself some space, perhaps with others, to see what has to go into the making of the Eucharist. See how true it is to say that it embraces *all* creation. We are the first generation that knows the long and complex history of the matter of the Eucharist: that makes us hugely privileged. The veil has been pulled back in our lifetime so that we can reverence and adore the mystery of God's closeness and silent work. In the Eucharist, the simplest things, bread and wine, are transformed into the divine. The ears of wheat and the grapes used at the Last Supper are not stand-alone: they represent all creation, and in the Eucharist it is being transfigured. God is very close indeed.

- Brian Grogan SJ