



SEPTEMBER 2022

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1327

"In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: 'Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.' [St. Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses*]"

Vocabulary:

Adversus Haereses - Latin for "Against Heresies," is a work of Christian theology written in Greek about the year 180 by Irenaeus, the bishop of Lugdunum (now Lyon in France).

In it, Irenaeus identifies and describes several schools of Gnosticism, as well as other schools of Christian thought, and contrasts their beliefs with his conception of orthodox Christianity.

Gnosticism (pronounced "noss-ti-sizz-um") - from Greek, meaning "having knowledge" is a collection of religious ideas and systems which came together in the late 1st century AD among Jewish and early Christian sects. These groups emphasized personal spiritual knowledge (gnosis, pronounced "no-siss") above the orthodox teachings, traditions, and authority of religious institutions. Gnostics (pronounced "nah-sticks") considered the principal element of salvation to be direct knowledge of the supreme divinity in the form of mystical insight. Many Gnostic texts deal not in concepts of sin and repentance, but with illusion and enlightenment.

Quote: "Jesus taught a new sacrifice which the Church received from the Apostles and offers throughout the whole world."

- *St. Irenaeus*

Reflection: Do I continue to pursue my understanding of the Catholic faith so as not to be misled by false teachings of the Christian faith?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, present in the Holy Eucharist, give me the grace to more fully understand and adore you in the consecrated elements of the altar. Help me to love and proclaim you in the bread broken and shared, the wine poured out in love for sinners. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.