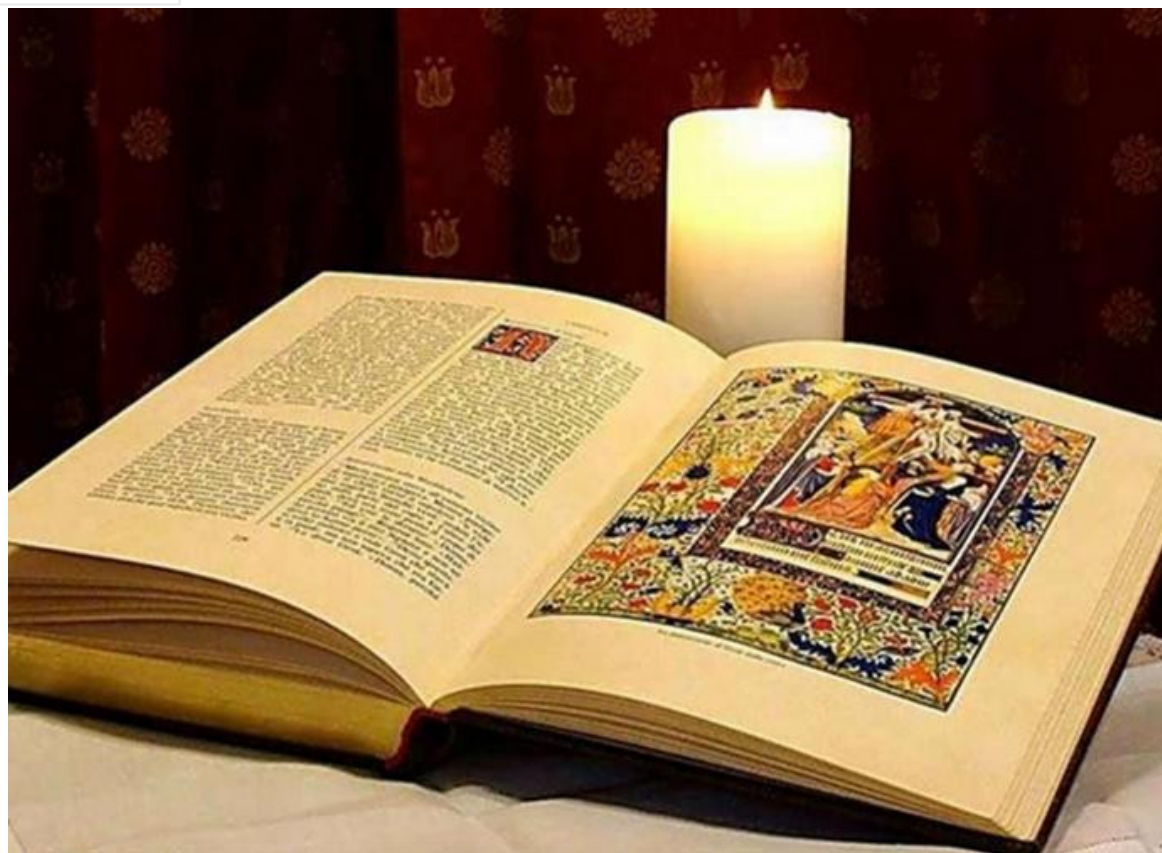


GOSPEL PEARLS

Such a great gift

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Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way." His disciples

answered, "Where could we get enough bread in this remote place to feed such a crowd?" "How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked. "Seven," they replied, "and a few small fish." He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and they in turn to the people. They all ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. (Matthew 15:29-37)

Jesus could have created the loaves and fishes from nothing, just like when He created the Universe. However, in this case He wanted to do it through humble human will, while uniting his followers to Himself. He made use of owners of so little to perform a great miracle. He does the same with us when we approach the Eucharist, allowing us to participate in such a great gift by way of a simple gesture of our welcoming Him within us. So let us commit ourselves to receiving the Eucharist worthily and without distractions.