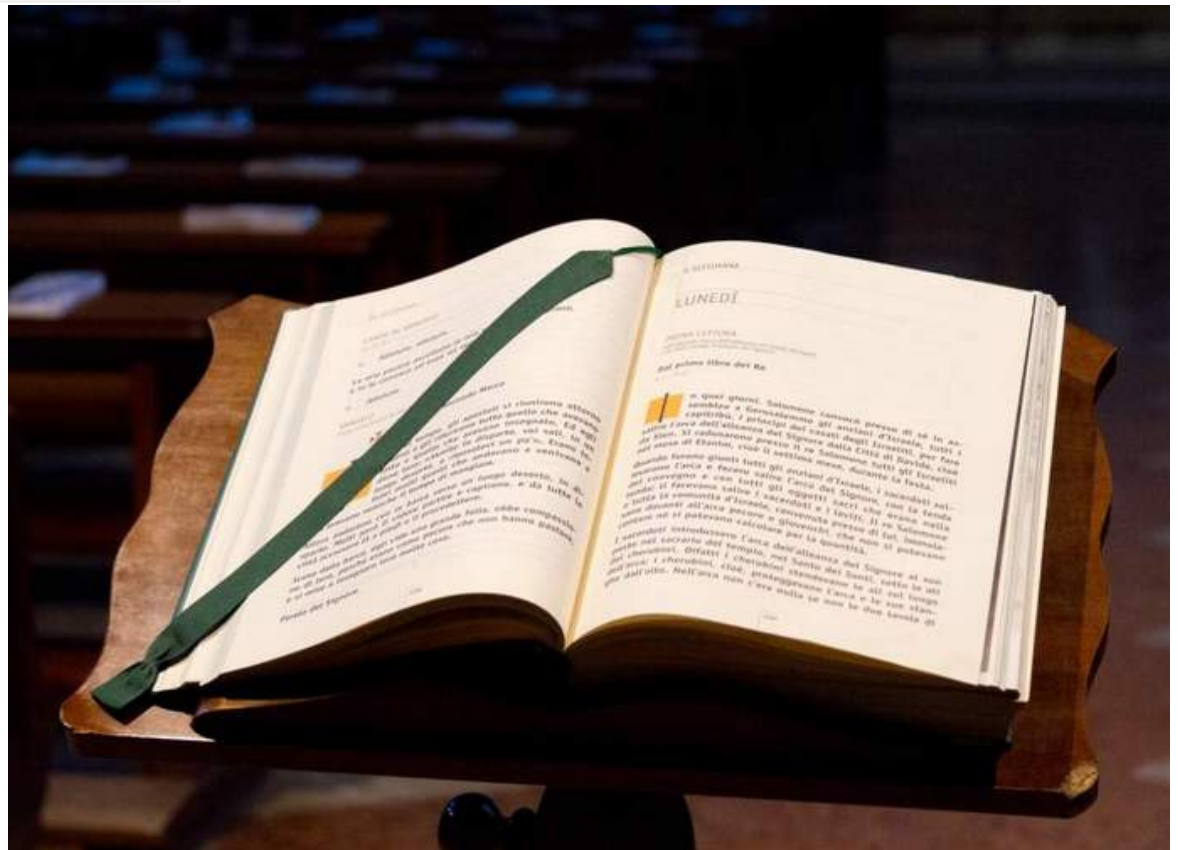


GOSPEL PEARLS

The Eucharist is our highway to heaven

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At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem! "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you

desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..' (Luke 13: 31-35)

Jesus will be captured, judged and killed only when He wills it to happen, and not before. Thus, Jesus answers those who warn him of dangers that it is not Herod who will decide how many days he has left to live. At the exact time willed by His Heavenly Father, Jesus will only apparently be captured by his enemies, since, in reality, it is Jesus Himself who will surrender to them. Jesus will give himself over to His executioners because, it is He who has decided to take up the sins of everyone from all time. In Greek, Eucharist means thanksgiving. Therefore, let us approach the Eucharist with sincere gratitude and love, since it is Jesus's supreme gift to us. As Blessed Carlo Acutis, a fifteen year old in love with Jesus and particularly devoted to the Blessed Sacrament, used to say: "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven."