

*Bambini a Adulti*

## The One Constant in My Life

MIKE CLEARY

My greatest memory of the atrium was learning about the Mass. I remember coloring the liturgical calendar and vestments for the priest, I remember learning about the words of consecration, and I remember learning about how we receive the true Presence of Jesus Christ at Holy Mass.

Fast forward to my early twenties, a couple years after I graduated college, when I found myself living in a new part of the country, far away from my friends or any family members. Even after six months of being in my new home, I still felt alone and lost.

During this entire time, I always went to Sunday Mass, even if it was just out of obligation. But one Sunday at Mass, when

I heard the words of consecration by the priest, something hit me. Jesus has been with me through everything in life. Through breakups, changes of my college major and career path, or even through the deaths of loved ones, the one constant in my life was Jesus' presence every Sunday at Mass. This is what I heard in the atrium as a child, and this is what I experienced during the loneliest part of my life in my early twenties. As I heard the words of consecration and saw the epiclesis, I was brought back to the floor of the atrium where I first learned about the Mass.

If it wasn't for my time in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, I might have missed Jesus right in front of me when I needed him the most.



*Judah, age seven,  
Holy Sepulcher School (Glade Mills),  
Butler, PA*



*Henry, age nine,  
St. John Neumann,  
Pittsburgh, PA*

*Henry did this work following the presentation on the Origin of the Eucharist. He worked for most of the session on this. He started at the bottom with a small drawing of the blue strip with a faint line leading from the moment of Redemption to a drawing of the Last Supper that extends from a large green Bible. Directly above this is a drawing of the Good Shepherd followed by his sheep with a block on the outside edge with the word Love. All around are small drawings of various kingdom parables—the found coin, the persistent friend, the wedding feast. When asked to tell about each of the small drawings, Henry was able to recount most of the parables in detail.*