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MORE SAINTS ^{OF} THE EUCHARIST

by *FATHER FRANCIS*

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The Patron of the Eucharist

The little boy Paschal was named after the Holy Spirit because he was born on Pentecost Sunday. We call the feast of the Holy Spirit PENTECOST. In the country of Spain this feast is called the PASCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Paschal was very lucky to have such a very holy name.

Paschal was a very holy child, too. One Sunday morning, when he was not even one year old, his mother took him to church with her. How still he was! Consecration time came. The priest lifted the Sacred Host for all to see and adore. Little Paschal saw the Host, too. For the first time during the Mass the little boy did something different. His little body shook when he looked up at the Host. Even Paschal's mother felt her heart beat fast when her little son did this. Could he know, as tiny as he was, that the Host was God? During the whole Mass Paschal never took his eyes from the altar.

Some months after this happened, Paschal was missing.

"Has anyone seen Paschal?" asked his mother.

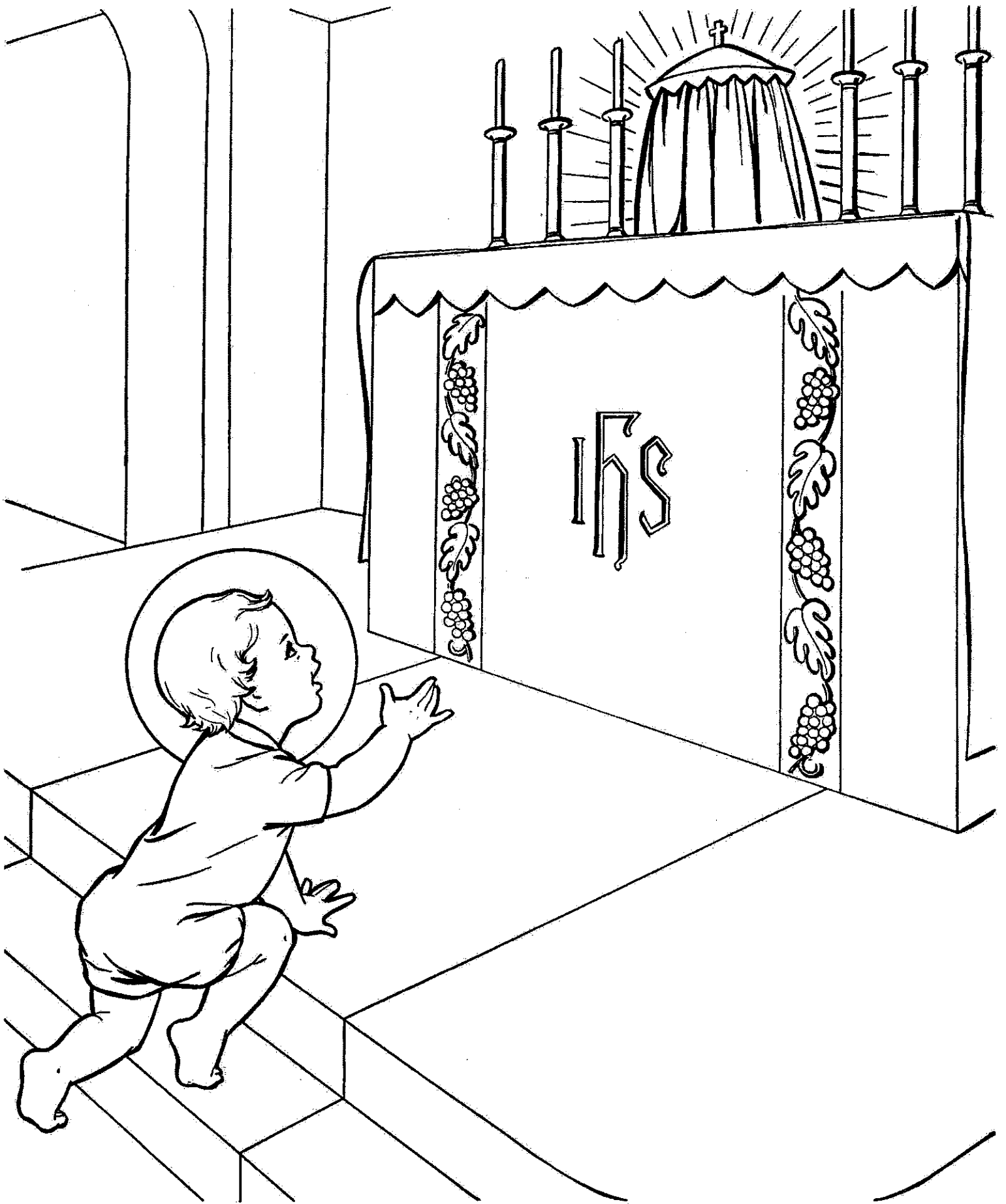
"He cannot be far," said his father. "He is too small to walk, but he can get around very well on his hands and knees."

The parents were sad. "Have you seen Paschal?" they asked all their friends and neighbors. But no one had seen him.

Finally, Paschal's mother went to church. "Please, God, help me find my baby," she prayed on the way.

What a surprise she had when she opened the door! There on the altar steps was little Paschal. He was looking at the tabernacle. Ever since that Sunday morning when Paschal saw Jesus in the Host, he wanted to go to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

When Paschal was seven years old, he had to take care of his



Paschal's mother finds him on the altar steps.

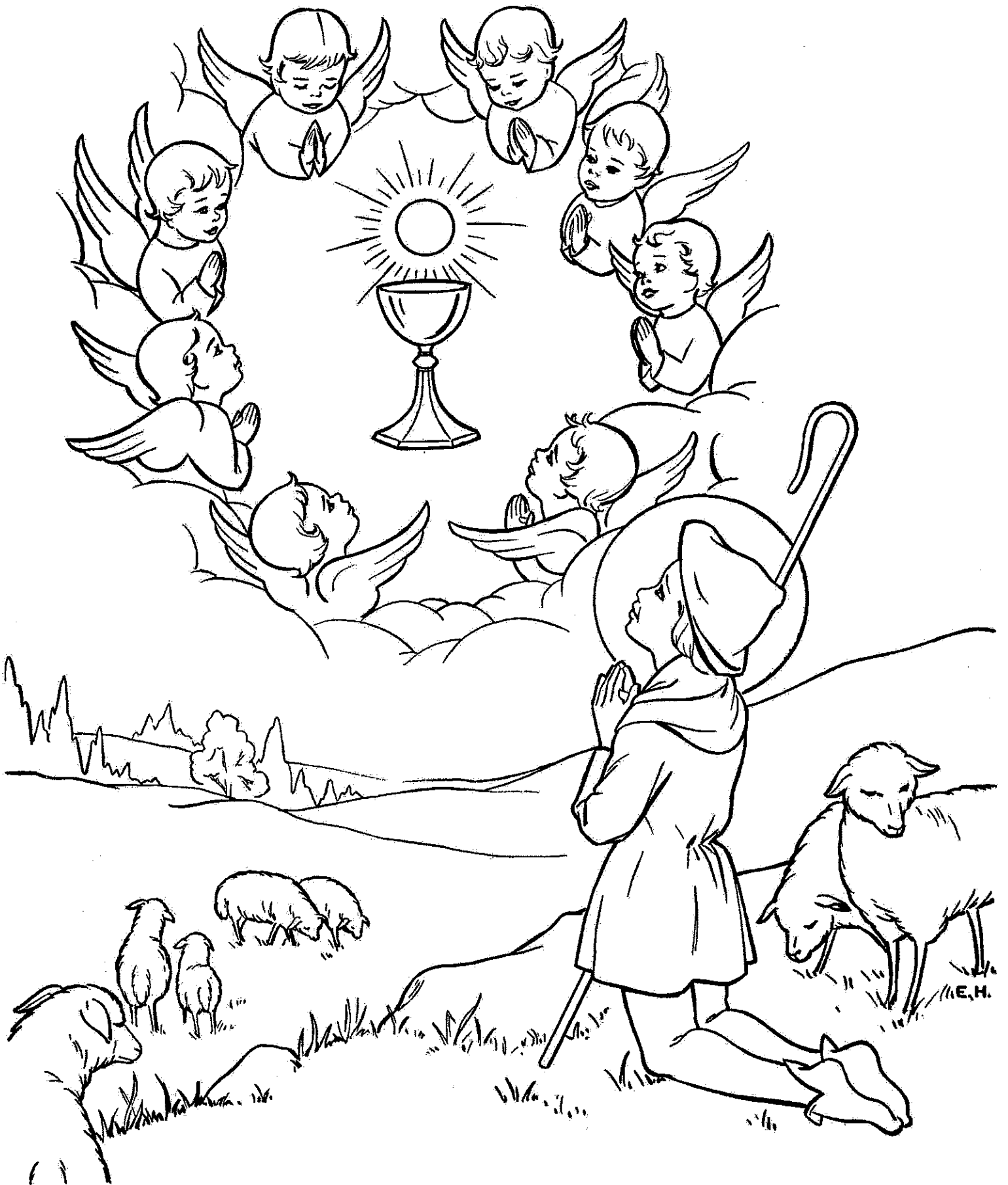
father's sheep. He could not go to school as the other boys did. He had to learn by himself how to read and write. Now he was a shepherd boy. Even then he would try to go to Mass each day. He longed to see the Sacred Host! If he could not get to church he would listen for the church bells. Then he would try to follow the Mass from the hillside. In those days they rang the big church bell at the Elevation.

One day, while out with the sheep, Paschal heard the Elevation bell. He fell on his knees and prayed, "Oh, dear Jesus, if only I could see You!" When he looked up, he saw a beautiful light in the sky. It took the form of a star. It grew brighter. Then it faded away. Suddenly, the sky seemed to open. Paschal saw a most beautiful sight. There was a chalice with the Sacred Host above it. All around were many, many angels adoring their God.

Many years later, a shepherd friend of Paschal's said that he sometimes saw angels bring the Blessed Sacrament to Paschal in the field.

Paschal also had a great love for Blessed Mother. He would often carve little pictures of holy Mary on his shepherd's staff. In this way he always had a shrine with him wherever he went. Paschal loved to make rosaries from cords, too. He would tie large knots for the Our Fathers and small ones for the Hail Marys. Then he would give these rosaries away to other poor shepherd boys. He would also teach them how to pray the rosary. In this way he taught others to love Blessed Mother, too.

Each day Paschal prayed to Blessed Mother to help him become a Brother. Mary heard his prayer. When Paschal grew up, he became a Franciscan Brother. He was very happy. "I can spend more time with Jesus," he thought. "I can serve many more Masses, too!"



Paschal sees a most beautiful sight.