Catholics believe that in the Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper, the bread and wine consumed by the priest become the actual Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. It is not merely a symbolic body and blood, if it's not the actual body and blood of the Lord. If it's not the actual body and blood of the Lord...if it's only a symbol?...if it's merely a symbol...if it's not the body...if it's not the actual body and blood of the Lord...if it's merely a symbol...how could you be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord? And, verse 29, "For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." The question is, though, how can you..."discern" the body, if it's not the body...if it's only a symbol? And why would people sick and dying for profaning a mere symbol? That makes no sense.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-18
Verse 16. "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" How is that possible if it is only symbolically Jesus' body and blood? And verse 18 is very interesting. "Consider the practice of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners with the sacrifice?" Eating the sacrifice makes you a partner in the sacrifice of the altar. What was the New Testament sacrifice? Jesus on the cross. Real, not symbolic.

John 6:51-66
Verse 53-55: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life...for My flesh is real food indeed and My blood is real drink indeed.

John 6:51 seals the deal for the Catholic understanding of the Eucharist. That it truly is the authentic Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, and not merely a symbolic body and blood. In verse 51, Jesus says that the bread He wants to give to us to eat, is the bread which He will give for the life of the world: His flesh. So when did He give His flesh for the life of the world? On the Cross. Was the flesh on the Cross real, or was it merely a symbolic representation of Jesus? It was real! So, if the bread He wants to give to us to eat is the flesh that He gave us for the life of the world - the flesh that hung on the Cross - and that flesh was real, then He wants us to eat His real flesh and drink His real blood. You can't say He is talking about His real flesh in verse 51, but then change it to His symbolic flesh in verses 58-68. "My flesh is real food indeed and My blood is real drink indeed."

But, how can this be? The disciples wondered the same thing. That's why they said, "This is a hard saying." The question for you is: Will you, too, walk away from Jesus over this difficult saying? Or will you trust that with God, all things are possible?