

SHAKS? AND SO, WHAT?

*Eucharistic story for children that appeared
years ago in a Mission Magazine.*

Intent of tjhs Story

- *The simplicity and generosity of children.*
- *In order to attend Mass and receive Communion no sacrifice is big enough.*

Lost in the Pacific Ocean, there are hundreds, not to say, thousands of little islands separated from each other by short stretches of sea. They are thinly populated. The seas over there, are treacherous, and breeding place for sharks and other dangerous predators.

Some Missionaries settled in one the bigger islands and built a church for the people and school for kids. Children from the neighboring islands were brought daily to School by their parents in canoes and on Sundays for Mass.

On one Sunday, while the Mass was going on, the priest heard the Sacristan shouting at some children outside in the Church and not allowing them to step in. The problem was that they had come to Mass practically naked and dripping wet. The Sacristan was scolding them. That that was not the proper way to come for Mass.

When the Mass was over, the Father met those kids and he asked them: “Why did you come to Mass in such an unworthy manner?” The children, in their simplicity, replied: “Mum and Dad thought that we were sleeping, so they left our island earlier to come for Mass, and since we had no other way to reach the church on time, we came swimming across the sea between our little island and the Church.”

At hearing that, Father was horrified. He told the children: “But do you not know that there are sharks in the sea? They could have eating you up and kill you.” The children, coolly, replied: “Sharks? And so, what? Did not Jesus die for us? Do we not eat his body at Holy Communion? We are ready to die for Jesus also?!”

Are you ready?