

THE GREATEST ROMANCE

FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE LORD IN
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Adoration: The acknowledgment of God as God, Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists. Through worship and prayer, the Church and individual persons give to God the adoration which is the first act of the virtue of religion. The first commandment of the law obliges us to adore God.

– CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (GLOSSARY)

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Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to recognize that you know before whom you kneel.

– SAINT MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

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Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.

– SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

When you approach the tabernacle remember that he has been waiting for you for twenty centuries.

– SAINT JOSEMARÍA ESCRIVÁ

Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you — for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart.

– SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

The Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.' 'The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.'

– CCC 1324

We speak of the *Most Blessed Sacrament* because it is the **Sacrament of sacraments**. The Eucharistic species reserved in the tabernacle are designated by this same name.

The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique. It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as '**the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend.**' In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist '**the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.***'

Worship of the Eucharist. In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, **genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration** of the Lord. 'The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to the sacrament of the Eucharist **the cult of adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and carrying them in procession.'**

– CCC 1378

Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honored with the worship of adoration. 'To visit the Blessed Sacrament is... a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord.'

It is highly fitting that Christ should have wanted to remain present to his Church in this unique way... **In his Eucharistic presence he remains mysteriously in our midst** as the one who loved us and gave himself up for us, and he remains under signs that express and communicate this love: 'The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. **Let our adoration never cease.'**

The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of **inestimable value for the life of the Church...** It is the responsibility of Pastors to encourage, also by their personal witness, the practice of Eucharistic adoration, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in particular, as well as prayer of adoration before Christ present under the Eucharistic species.

It is pleasant to spend time with him, to lie close to his breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in his heart. If in our time Christians must be distinguished above all by the 'art of prayer,' **how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament?** How often, dear brothers and sisters, have I experienced this, and drawn from it strength, consolation and support!

The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to **make contact with the very wellspring of grace**. A Christian community desirous of contemplating the face of Christ... cannot fail also to develop this aspect of Eucharistic worship, which **prolongs and increases the fruits of our communion** in the body and blood of the Lord.

EXODUS 29:43-46

There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified to my glory; I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate, to serve me as priests. And I will dwell among the people of Israel, and will be their God. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them forth out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.

EXODUS 33:7-11

Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

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EXODUS 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tables of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. And when Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, the people of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone; and Moses would put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

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2 CORINTHIANS 3:14C, 16-18

[O]nly through Christ is [the veil] taken away... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

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1 SAMUEL 1:12-15

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli [the priest] observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard; therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunken? Put away your wine from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman sorely troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD."

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1 SAMUEL 3:3

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2 SAMUEL 7:18-29

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD; you have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O Lord GOD! And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness, to make your servant know it. Therefore you are great, O LORD God; for there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. What other nation on earth is like your people Israel, whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name, and doing for them great and terrible things, by driving out before his people a nation and its gods? And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people for ever, and you, O LORD, became their God.

2 SAMUEL 7:18-29

And now, O LORD God, confirm for ever the word which you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken; and your name will be magnified for ever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house;' therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue for ever before you; for you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed for ever."

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PSALMS 8:3-5

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy finger, the moon and the stars which thou has established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor.

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LUKE 1:43

And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

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The Liturgy of the Hours extends to the different hours of the day the praise and thanksgiving, the commemoration of the mysteries of salvation, the petitions and foretaste of heavenly glory, that are present in the Eucharistic mystery, 'the center and apex of the whole life of the Christian community.' The Liturgy of the Hours is an excellent preparation for the celebration of the Eucharist itself, for it inspires and deepens in a fitting way the dispositions necessary for the fruitful celebration of the Eucharist: faith, hope, love, devotion and the spirit of self-denial.

2 KINGS 19:14-19

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Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, thou art the God, thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Incline thy ear, O LORD, and hear; open thy eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. Of a truth, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone; therefore they were destroyed. So now, O LORD our God, save us, I beseech thee, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou, O LORD, art God alone."

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MATTHEW 2:10-11

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LUKE 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, [Jesus] entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

LUKE 8:14

And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

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LUKE 8:15

And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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To fall in love with God is **the greatest romance**; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement.

– SAINT AUGUSTINE