

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The feast of Corpus Christi developed in the 13th and 14th centuries. One practice that grew out of this time was Eucharistic Adoration. Eucharistic Congresses, held since the late 19th century continues to promote this devotion.

Since the Second Vatican Council, a great deal of attention has focused on the reform of the liturgy and a deepening of Eucharistic theology. Like the practice of the earliest Christians, Adoration can keep us connected to the community's celebration of the Eucharist.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states *"Christ Jesus... is present in many ways to his Church: in his word, in his Church's prayer..., in the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, in the sacraments of which he is the author, in the sacrifice of the Mass."* (Catechism, 1373)

Eucharistic adoration must reflect a balance between the transcendent Christology of worship and adoration and the Christology of Christ's incarnational presence in the people of God. This reflects the view, based on consideration of Jesus' teachings and activity, that Jesus would reject a relationship in which we merely gazed at him in silent adoration. His own prayer strengthened him for service and ministry, for bringing about the reign of God on earth, and he calls us to follow that lead.

"The worship of Christ present in the Eucharist is not just a personal, solitary "Jesus and Me" experience but involves the entire Church." ~Saint John XXIII

"(We) contribute to the radical transformation of the world (at adoration)." ~ Saint John Paul II

"Our adoration makes us more sensitive to the needs of our fellow man (and woman)." ~ Saint John Paul II

"This personal encounter with the Lord...strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, as well as the walls that separate us from one another."

~Pope Benedict XVI

"Jesus speaks in the silence of the mystery of the Eucharist and reminds us each time that following him means going out of ourselves and making our lives not something we 'possess,' but a gift to him and to others." ~Pope Francis

