

Year of the Eucharist

June 2023 – June 2024

“Rediscover and Experience the Presence of Jesus Christ.”

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Introduction

1.) Why devote a year to the Eucharist? What is a “Eucharistic faith or spirituality”? What does it mean to say that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Church's life and mission”? Is the Eucharist just a sacrament I receive or a divine person I encounter and share? Do I receive or encounter Jesus Christ during Mass, especially in the Eucharist?

2.) Recent poll numbers indicate fewer Catholics receive the Sacrament or attend Mass regularly. There is a sense that the Eucharist is seen more as a symbolic meal of fellowship than the receiving Christ Himself. Debates about the reception and meaning of the Eucharist have led the Church to launch a new movement or revival. The Eucharistic revival has four focal points or Four Invitations. (Visit the National Eucharistic Revival website at <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org>, they also have a YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@eucharisticrevival>).

3.) If you were asked the question, what is your belief and experience with the Blessed Sacrament, how would you answer? To speak of personal encounters or experiences does not introduce anything foreign to our Catholic faith. It does happen that those may be areas of faith we're not familiar with. Without rejecting or minimizing the Church's Apostolic faith, this Eucharistic year is an invitation to encounter and experience Jesus Christ as the Apostles did. There is no more powerful, profound, or personal way than in the Blessed Eucharist. It is in the Eucharist that we find the heart of eternal mercy and divine love. In the Eucharistic Bread of Life, the soul is healed and strengthened and finds its source of life. In the Eucharist, we find the Lord Himself.

4.) This year, the Conversations of Faith blog will publish meditations and reflections on the Eucharist and the Mass. We will explore ways to broaden our understanding of the Eucharist and its role in the Christian life. The articles intend to deepen our love of the Lord Jesus and experience His love for us.

“The Eucharist is the Sacred Heart of Jesus”