



## Understanding Eucharistic Adoration

### Question 9: What is the History of Eucharistic Adoration?

- *"In the 11th century the French monk Berengar of Tours began to teach that the bread and wine in the celebration of the Eucharist could not change physically into the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Pope Gregory VII demanded a retraction from Berengar saying that the body and blood of Christ were truly present in the Eucharist. This resulted in a refining of the church's teaching on the real presence. In response, eucharistic devotion burst forth throughout Europe: processions, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and other prayers focused on the reserved sacrament became part of Catholic life." This article appeared in the March 2011 issue of U.S. Catholic magazine (Vo. 76, No. 3, page 46)*
- *"Before the end of the sixteenth century, Pope Clement VIII in 1592 issued a historic document on what was called in Italian Quarant' Ore (Forty Hours). The devotion consisted of forty hours of continual prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed." The History of Eucharistic Adoration: Development of Doctrine in the Catholic Church | EWTN*
- *"About a century later (1731) his successor, Clement XIII, published a detailed set of instructions for the proper carrying out of the Forty-Hours' devotion, for example: 1) The Blessed Sacrament is always exposed on the high altar, except in patriarchal basilicas; 2) Statues, relics and pictures around the altar of exposition are to be removed or veiled; 3) Only clerics in surplices may take care of the altar of exposition; 4) There must be continuous relays of worshippers before the Blessed Sacrament and should include a priest or cleric in major orders; and 5) No Masses are to be said at the altar of exposition." <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/history-of-eucharistic-adoration-development-of-doctrine-in-the-catholic-church-4086>*
- *"Gregory's teaching on the Real Presence was quoted verbatim in Pope Paul VI's historic document Mysterium Fidei (1965) to meet a new challenge to the Eucharist in our day--very similar to what happened in the eleventh century." <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/history-of-eucharistic-adoration-development-of-doctrine-in-the-catholic-church-4086>*
- **Looking for historical evidence?** Check out the website of the Vatican-recognized collection of Eucharistic Miracles. *"With an extensive assortment of photographs and historical descriptions, the exhibition presents some of the principal Eucharistic Miracles that took place throughout the ages in various countries of the world and which have been recognized by the Church. By means of the panels, one can "virtually visit" the places where the miracles took place. The current exhibition includes 153 panels that are used to explain 152 Eucharistic Miracles."* [http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl\\_mir.htm](http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl_mir.htm)

### Join Us!

St. Luke's Church Eucharistic Adoration,

**every Monday (except federal holidays),**

7:00 a.m through 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Joe Lofgren, [lofgren4@gmail.com](mailto:lofgren4@gmail.com)