

Quotes on the Holy Eucharist

These may be used when there is a little extra room in the bulletin.

The Eucharist is connected with the Passion. If Jesus had not established the Eucharist we would have forgotten the crucifixion. It would have faded into the past and we would have forgotten that Jesus loved us. There is a saying that to be far away from the eyes is to be far away from the heart. To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of his love.

-Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

If we really understand the Eucharist, if we really center our lives on Jesus' Body and Blood, if we nourish our lives with the Bread of the Eucharist, it will be easy for us to see Christ in that hungry one next door, the one lying in the gutter, the alcoholic man we shun, our husband or our wife, or our restless child. For in them, we will recognize the distressing disguises of the poor: Jesus in our midst.

-Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

For you hear the words, 'the Body of Christ' and respond 'Amen.' Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your 'Amen' may be true.

-Saint Augustine (Sermon 272)

Those who nourish themselves on the bread of Christ cannot remain indifferent before people who, even in our own time, are without daily bread. Many parents have great difficulty in feeding themselves and their children. It is an ever more serious problem which the international community struggles to resolve. The Church not only prays to 'give us this day our daily bread' but, following the example of her Lord, seeks in all ways 'to multiply the five loaves and the two fish', through countless initiatives of human promotion and participation so that no one may lack what they need to live.

-Pope Benedict XVI (Angelus, May 25, 2008)

The sacrament of charity, the Holy Eucharist is the gift that Jesus Christ makes of himself, thus revealing to us God's infinite love for every man and woman. This wondrous sacrament makes manifest that 'greater' love which led him to 'lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). Jesus did indeed love them 'to the end' (John 13:1). In those words the Evangelist introduces Christ's act of immense humility: before dying for us on the Cross, he tied a towel around himself and washed the feet of his disciples. In the same way, Jesus continues, in the sacrament of the Eucharist, to love us 'to the end,' even to offering us his body and his blood. What amazement must the Apostles have felt in witnessing what the Lord did and said during that Supper! What wonder must the Eucharistic mystery also awaken in our own hearts!

-Pope Benedict XVI (Sacrament of Charity, 2007)

In the sacrament of the altar, the Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness (cf. Genesis 1:27), and becomes our companion along the way. In this sacrament, the Lord truly becomes food for us, to satisfy our hunger for truth and freedom. Since only the truth can make us free (cf. John 8:32), Christ becomes for us the food of truth.

-Pope Benedict XVI (Sacrament of Charity, 2007)

It is not possible to "eat" the Risen One, present under the sign of bread, as if it were a simple piece of bread. To eat this Bread is to communicate, to enter into communion with the person of the living Lord. This communion, this act of "eating," is truly an encounter between two persons, it is allowing our lives to be penetrated by the life of the One who is the Lord, of the One who is my Creator and Redeemer.

The purpose of this communion, of this partaking, is the assimilation of my life with his, my transformation and conformation into he who is living Love.

-Pope Benedict XVI (Homily on May 26, 2005)

Christ personally unites himself with each one of us, but Christ himself is also united with the man and the woman who are next to me. And the bread is for me but it is also for the other. Thus Christ unites all of us with himself and all of us with one another. In communion we receive Christ. But Christ is likewise united with my neighbor: Christ and my neighbor are inseparable in the Eucharist. And thus we are all one bread and one body. A Eucharist without solidarity with others is a Eucharist abused.

-Pope Benedict XVI (General Audience on December 10, 2008)

Christ gives us his Body in the Eucharist, he gives himself in his Body and thus makes us his Body, he unites us with his Risen Body. If man eats ordinary bread, in the digestive process this bread becomes part of his body, transformed into a substance of human life. But in holy Communion the inverse process is brought about. Christ, the Lord, assimilates us into himself, introducing us into his glorious Body, and thus we all become his Body.

-Pope Benedict XVI (General Audience on December 10, 2008)

...it is important that no dimension of this sacrament should be neglected. We are constantly tempted to reduce the Eucharist to our own dimensions, while in reality *it is we who must open ourselves up to the dimensions of the Mystery*. 'The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation'

-Pope John Paul II (Stay with us, Lord, 2004)

If we wish to appreciate the full nature of the Eucharist, in keeping with scripture and the fathers, we must begin by freeing ourselves from an individualistic understanding. This certainly does not mean that Communion is something other than personal fellowship and unity with Jesus Christ; but in the Bible, in the early Church, and in the tradition of the high Middle Ages, this fellowship and unity with Christ in the Eucharist are always seen in the larger context of the fellowship (*communio*) of the Church.

-Cardinal Walter Kaspar (Sacrament of Unity, page 118)

At that first Eucharist before you died,
O Lord, you prayed that all be one in you;
At this our Eucharist again preside,
And in our hearts your law of love renew.
Thus may we all one Bread, one Body be;
Through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

For all your church, O Lord, we intercede;
O make our lack of charity to cease;
Draw us the nearer each to each we plead,
By drawing all to you, O Prince of Peace.
Thus may we all one Bread, one Body be;
Through this blest Sacrament of Unity.

-William Turton (1859-1938)



DIOCESE OF MADISON

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

PO Box 44983

Madison, WI 53744-4983

Tel. (608) 821-3080 ❖ Fax (608) 821-3139

worship@straphael.org

www.madisondiocese.org