



*From the Pastor
33rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time - C
November 13, 2022*

MORE ON EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.

In part 14 of my series on *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* US Bishops' document, I explain the *rubrics* guiding who may and how to conduct *Eucharistic Adoration*. Past articles on this *Revival*, the whole

document, and a free study guide, are on our Parish website: easeton.net; click on *National Eucharistic Revival Bulletin Articles*.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta's [aka 'Mother Teresa'] words on the importance of Eucharistic Adoration

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth."

RUBRICS FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. A lit *Sanctuary Lamp* near a *Tabernacle* signifies that *Jesus*, truly present in the *Eucharist*, is there. To engage *more* of our senses in worship, the *Blessed Sacrament* may be 'exposed' so we can more easily 'adore' *Christ*. It was once permissible to simply open the *Tabernacle* door. Neither the 1973 document *'Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass'* nor the 2004 document *'On Certain Matters to be Observed or to Be Avoided Regarding the Most Holy Eucharist'* *forbid* this - but they offer *two* options making it *unnecessary*: 1] conducting *Eucharistic Adoration* using a *Ciborium* - or 2] a *Monstrance*.

WHAT'S A CIBORIUM? Latin for 'covered container,' a '*ciborium*' is a metal vessel that holds the *Eucharist*. It is also Latin for 'cup,' so some *ciboria* look like capped chalices. We have a large *ciborium* that *holds* the *Hosts* in the *Tabernacle*. To *distribute Holy Communion*, we have 3 sets: a *pewter* set for *Advent/Lent*; a *simple brass* set for *Ordinary Time*; and a *festive brass* set for *Christmas, Easter, Weddings, Funerals*, and other special times. It is permissible to place a *Ciborium* on a *Corporal* on an *Altar* to adore the *Eucharist*.

WHAT'S A MONSTRANCE? From the Latin word '*to demonstrate*,' a '*Monstrance*' displays a *Consecrated Host* as seen in the photo. It is also called an *Ostensorium*, from the Latin '*ostendere*' or '*to show*.' Often *cruciform* or *cross-shaped*, it may be studded with gems or jewels, icons, images or statuettes; made of precious metals, they cost from a few hundred to many thousands of dollars! A smaller '*Luna*' or '*Lunette*' [from the Latin word '*Lunar*' or '*Moon*,' which it resembles], containing a *Consecrated Host*, is placed in the *Monstrance*. In the *Tabernacle*, the '*Luna*' is kept in a leather or cloth pouch, or in a metal *pyx* similar to what we use to bring *Holy Communion* to the *Sick* and *Homebound*.

WHO LEADS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION? In *normal* circumstances, an *Ordained Minister*, in vestments proper to his level: *Deacon, Priest* or *Bishop*, conducts the *Service*. If he is absent or impeded, a trained *Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion [EM]* or suitable *Lay Person* may lead; while no dress code is stipulated, local custom permits *Lay Ministers*, as do our *Altar Servers*, to wear an alb or cassock and surplice. In some places, like in shore areas, *Lay Readers* and *EMs* also wear liturgical garb. The only further restriction is only *Ordained Ministers* give the *Eucharistic Blessing* by making a profound *Sign of the Cross* over all with the *Blessed Sacrament*.

WHO INCENSES THE BLESSED SACRAMENT? While the 1992 document, '*Order for the Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist*,' under '*Signs of Reverence to the Blessed Sacrament*' states "*incense may be used*" [#10] ... it then states that "*It is not lawful [for Lay Ministers] to give the blessing with the Sacrament, nor do they incense it.*" [#26] However, while the 1975 2nd edition of the *Roman Missal* makes no mention of it, the 2008 3rd edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states that "*If incense is used [at holy Mass], when the host and chalice are shown to the people after the Consecration, a minister incenses them.*" [#150] These contradictory directives obviously require further clarification, as in many places, *Lay Ministers [Altar Servers]* incense the *Blessed Sacrament*! Next week: the rubrics for the *Rite of Eucharistic Adoration*.

In His holy Name,

Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, KCHS