



# Diocese of Youngstown

July 7, 2023

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Monsignors, Fathers, Deacons, and Diocesan Pastoral Associates,

The second phase of the Eucharistic Revival has begun. Every parish is asked to intentionally focus on the Eucharist in this year by drawing greater attention to this wondrous gift. Please find enclosed information and ideas on what your parish can do to embrace the spirit of the Eucharist Revival and open the eyes and hearts of our faithful to Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. I am grateful to the Very Reverend Jack Lavelle and Reverend Ryan Furlong for their leadership with the Eucharistic Revival in our diocese.

There are two strategies that I ask you to embrace during this year. First, I invite every parish to engage in Eucharistic Adoration. This effort must necessarily include catechesis on this prayerful encounter with Jesus. Holy hours, and 40 Hours before the Blessed Sacrament are a rich part of the tradition of our Church. Moreover, parishes that promote Eucharistic Adoration often come to experience an increase in religious vocations.

Second, I ask each parish to form small faith sharing groups that will come together and discuss the fruits of the Holy Eucharist and reflect on how we as a Church can more fully become what we receive.

On June 19, 2023, Pope Francis met with the Organizing Committee of the National Eucharistic Congress in the United States of America. He said, "The Eucharist is God's response to the deepest hunger of the human heart, the hunger for authentic life, for in the Eucharist Christ himself is truly in our midst, to nourish, console and sustain us."

Pope Francis also said, "I believe that we have lost the sense of adoration in our day. We must rediscover the sense of adoration in silence. It is a form of prayer we have lost. Too few people know what it is."

Finally, during this upcoming year, I am going to ask that every parish make a committed effort to enhance and improve the quality of our celebrations of Eucharist by reviewing your parish music and choir programs, provide formation opportunities for all liturgical ministers, fostering an atmosphere of hospitality and welcome and engage in an overall revival of your Sunday celebrations.

Of particular importance is the offering of Holy Communion under both kinds to the faithful on a regular basis. The return of the Holy Communion from the Chalice was introduced last year after being suspended during the COVID pandemic. As we move beyond these circumstances and to better engage in the parish revival of the Holy Eucharist, I would urge you to return offering the chalice to the faithful at Mass along with other essential actions of the Eucharist that might have been suspended. (i.e., gift procession, sign of peace, procession with ministers etc.).

As this revival continues now on the parish level, I pray that we may work together to foster a greater appreciation and reverence of the Holy Eucharist. You will be receiving a packet of information of information from Fr. Jack Lavelle and Fr. Ryan Furlong next week. Together, let us pray, "That All May Be One."

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Bonnar  
Bishop of Youngstown

DJB/sdmp

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