Faith in Five – Adults Eucharistic Revival



- The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word eucharistia, meaning thanksgiving. In the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and the instrumentality of the priest. Christ is present under the appearances of bread and wine, in His glorified form. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist (Source).
- 2. Pew Research (2019) states that almost 70% of Catholics do not believe that the Eucharist is the True Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Body and Blood of Christ come to us in the Eucharist in a sacramental form. It is astonishing to know that what we claim as the source and summit of our faith is not a reality for many, especially since this doctrine differentiates us from other Christians. The world is in a crisis, our faith is in crisis.
- 3. Prior to Covid-19 in 2020, Bishop Robert Barron, former USCCB Chairman on Evangelization and Catechesis, directed a call for crisis intervention as he finished his term. The recommendation was for a Eucharistic Revival. Bishop Andrew Cozzens, the new USCCB Chairman, continues the work with the American bishops on how the Lord is inviting all of us to address this crisis.
- 4. The revival is for the whole church. We are invited to encounter the Lord through the Eucharist, and to experience the depth of His love. The hope of the revival is that Catholics can be healed, converted, formed and sent out on mission for the world. This is not a one-time experience, but a lifelong healing journey for us and our faith. The overarching theme of revival is to invite churches to come back to the mystery of what happens at Mass. When we truly understand what happens during the Mass, we can fully participate and engage in the paschal mystery of the Mass.
- 5. The National Eucharistic Revival is a three-year movement of discernment,



NATIONALencounter and grassroots response on the diocesan,Eucharisticparish and individual level (Source; excerpts also
from this video source).

- a. The journey began on the Solemnity Feast of Corpus Christi in 2022.
- b. **Year of Diocesan Revival**: June 19, 2022 June 11, 2023 During this time, dioceses renew leaders to bring this to the parish level.
- c. Year of Parish Revival: June 11, 2023 July 17, 2024
 Small group material brought to the diocese will be shared for use in parishes and families to initiate conversations on key elements of eucharistic faith.
- d. **National Eucharistic Congress**: July 17-21, 2024, Indianapolis, Indiana A **Eucharistic Congress** is a gathering of clergy, religious and laity for the purpose

of celebrating and glorifying the Holy Eucharist, to revive the belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The first Eucharistic Congress was held in Lille, France in 1881 organized by a laywoman when there was a decline of the Church after the French Revolution. The United States has hosted nine national congresses, and two international ones, the last one in 1976. This planned event in 2024 expects more than 80,000 Catholics to gather and reconsecrate their hearts to the source and summit of our faith. It will be a celebration, a deepening encounter with Christ; an experience of beauty, joy, truth and goodness. The spirit of the Congress will be similar to World Youth Day. It will also be a sending out of eucharistic missionaries united as Jesus unites us.

- e. **Year of Going Out on Mission**: July 21, 2024 Pentecost 2025 With the Holy Spirit, Catholics will share the gift of the Eucharistic Lord going into the Jubilee Year of the Church in 2025.
- 6. How to get involved:
 - a. Learn about the Revival! A free, <u>two-hour online course</u> from Revive Parishes and presented by Bishop Andrew Cozzens is available. The course is designed for leaders in ministry at the parish level: pastors, volunteers, and catechists. Anyone who is interested in helping their parish can sign up. It is the source for the theological heart of the revival.
 - b. To help understand the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood more thoroughly, a booklet "This Is My Body: A Call To Eucharistic Revival," by Bishop Robert Barron is available. For more information: <u>https://wordonfire.org/eucharist</u>.
 - c. Learn more about the <u>National Eucharistic Pilgrimage</u>. "The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way. Then, at the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024, all these flames will blaze together".
 - d. <u>Register to attend the 10th Annual National Eucharistic Congress</u>, or donate.
 - e. <u>Become a prayer warrior for the Eucharistic Revival</u>.
 - f. Talk to your parish priest and see if there is a way you can get involved at your own parish!
 - g. You do not have to be a super evangelist to share Jesus. If you have had an encounter with Christ, you can share that. Wherever you are, Jesus will meet you. He wants relationship with you and those around you!
 - h. Spend more time in Adoration. Seek the Lord's will for your participation in this important mission. Let us pray for more Catholics to also approach the Blessed Sacrament with stronger faith and deeper reverence.
- 7. It is our responsibility to spread the gift of the Eucharist through teaching, preaching, and actions. As we are renewed by the Holy Spirit, we can begin a revival of faith for the glory of God!

"If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy." St. John Vianney

This is a free resource! For more information, visit <u>www.acatholicmomslife.com</u>