

The Eucharist. The Excellence of this Sacrament.

The Holy Eucharist is the most holy, the most majestic, the most admirable of all the Sacraments instituted by our Saviour. What the sun is in the world, the heart in us, the holy Eucharist is in the Church of Jesus Christ.

It is the centre of Catholic worship; the centre resplendent and divine, to which all the other Sacraments refer. As in material temples there is one principal point, the altar, to which all other parts of the edifice are subordinate, and towards which all eyes are turned, so the Eucharist appears as the central mystery, towards which converge all the religious ceremonies of holy Church.

The Eucharistic mystery has a double character: it is at once a Sacrament and a Sacrifice. It is a Sacrament when received by the faithful in Holy Communion or exposed for their adoration ; a Sacrifice when offered to God in the Holy Mass.

The term Eucharist signifies thanksgiving. We thus designate this Sacrament, because in instituting it the Saviour gave thanks to His Father, and because we ourselves have in it the means of returning acceptable thanksgiving to God for the ineffable blessing of our redemption.

The Eucharist, considered as a Sacrament, is defined the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ; in other words, it is the Sacrament which contains really and substantially, under the appearances of bread and wine the body and blood of the living Jesus Christ; that is to say, which contains Jesus Christ Himself in His integrity His humanity and His divinity, such as He is seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father.

Were the Sacramental veil uplifted, we would behold Jesus Christ as the Blessed Margaret Mary saw Him in 1673.

Therefore, my brethren, we have Jesus Christ in the midst of us! What a treasure for those who have faith! Let us excite then, let us revive our faith in reference to this most holy Sacrament; and when we are in its presence, let us devoutly adore our Saviour hidden therein, praying Him to increase our faith more and more.