



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Real Presence

Quarterly News & Updates from the Diocese of Buffalo
October 2022

Year of “Diocesan Revival” Continues through 2023

The *Life in the Eucharist* movement in the Diocese of Buffalo began as a grassroots effort at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ransomville and then was adopted throughout Niagara County prior to the pandemic. *Life in the Eucharist* originated with the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Brothers from Cleveland, Ohio and is based on the spirituality of their founder, St. Peter Julian Eymard, who is called the “apostle of the Eucharist.” **The three pillars of the program are celebration, contemplation and communion.**

Life in the Eucharist is a retreat for parishes where participants are invited to a deeper experience of the Mass and to explore different facets of the Eucharist in a prayerful way. The goal is to help individuals to see the power of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection as a point of departure for ongoing personal growth and development leading to the formation of communities who evangelize through the power of the Eucharist.

There are five sessions to the retreat exploring how the Eucharist as God’s love for us is:
(1) Nourishment, (2) Reconciliation, (3) Transformation. (4) Abiding Presence, and (5) Mission.

Ideally, the retreat is held on one day or evening per week for five consecutive weeks. Each session includes prayer, a speaker and a witness who describes their experience of a particular aspect of the Eucharist.

A diocesan implementation team for *Life in the Eucharist* was formed to train parish leaders and representatives on the logistics of the retreat. The first training was held in May 2022, and currently three of the pilot parish families are conducting the retreat. Two trainings will be held this fall and more trainings will be held in the spring.

Each parish is asked to send representatives to a training and then to form a team for your family of parishes to work on and implement the retreat. All materials to successfully do the retreat are given at the training sessions. The diocesan implementation team is available to help any parish or family needing assistance on any aspect of the retreat.

—Sr. Joanne Suranni, CSSF

<https://www.buffalodiocese.org/eucharistic-revival/>

Restoring the Precious Blood to our Communities

“From the first days of the Church's celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Communion consisted of the reception of both species in fulfillment of the Lord's command to “take and eat . . . take and drink.” The distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful under both kinds was thus the norm for more than a millennium of Catholic liturgical practice.”

— *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion #17 (USCCB)*

The pandemic took many things from us — family, community, travel and freedom of movement in some cases. Among them, the Precious Blood was temporarily suspended. Now, as we have come to know more about the COVID virus and its spread, with prudent efforts to mitigate it, each parish/family community is encouraged to restore Communion under both kinds. This practice was normative in the Diocese of Buffalo since the restoration of the Most Precious Blood following the Second Vatican Council until the pandemic.

Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds. For in this form, the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more fully evident and clearer expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord. Jesus personally instructs us to “Take and eat... Drink from it, all of you.” (Matthew 26:26-28)

The emphasis on reception of Holy Communion under both kinds is in no way meant to diminish the Church's traditional teaching concerning concomitance (that is, the teaching that the entire Christ is contained under only one species). The consecrated bread is both the Body and Blood of Christ, and the consecrated wine is also both the Body and Blood of Christ.

While Communion under only one species is not lacking in any way theologically, there is a fullness to the sign value which is lost, and therefore a diminishment in the outward expression of the sacred realities. Without the chalice, the faithful are deprived of this potent symbol of Christ's sacrifice and the new covenant into which they were baptized. Partaking of the chalice is not only a participation in Christ's suffering and death, but also a foretaste of the eschatological banquet, the “wedding feast of the lamb.” (Revelation 19:9)

During this time of attention and renewal of our Eucharistic practice, it is important to note that the reception of Holy Communion is not a private experience. It is a personal encounter with the Lord which transforms the individual members of the gathered assembly into the One Body of Christ. The Lord's Supper renews, heals, and brings to perfection our Baptismal Communion as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Questions?

Email worship@buffalodiocese.org or call (716) 847-5545
Share your photos #EucharisticRevival and #RealPresenceBuffalo

Eucharistic Minister Formation

The Office of Worship is happy to offer regional training sessions to train new and update existing Eucharistic Ministers. We will soon be piloting a virtual option to enhance access to this ministry.

Please contact us for more information on how to host a session, recommend candidates, or to receive more tips for how to catechize and reintroduce the Precious Blood in your congregation/ministry.

