



“If the Eucharist is a mystery of faith which so greatly transcends our understanding as to call for sheer abandonment to the word of God, then there can be no one like Mary to act as our support and guide in acquiring this disposition. . . . In a certain sense Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that she offered her virginal womb for the Incarnation of God’s Word. The Eucharist, while commemorating the passion and resurrection, is also in continuity with the incarnation. At the Annunciation Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of His body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord’s body and blood. As a result, there is a profound analogy between the Fiat which Mary said in reply to the angel, and the Amen which every believer says when receiving the body of the Lord.”

—John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, nos. 54-55

Sharing the Eucharistic Faith of Mary

Prayer Based on
Ecclesia de Eucharistia
by John Paul II

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Mary, our Mother in the order of grace, you are “the crystal Fountain of faith.”¹

The Church looks to you as a model of faith in the Real Presence of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of your Son under the appearances of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist.

Share with each of your spiritual children your relationship to the Eucharist, this mystery of faith that so greatly transcends our understanding.

You were a woman of living and active faith throughout your life, abandoning yourself trustingly to the Word of God.

God asked a faith of you He asked of no other creature, and with a generous heart you responded, “Fiat!”

Unwaveringly you persevered in keeping the faith even through the darkness and sufferings of your Son’s bitter Passion, death and burial.

Help us, O Mary, to receive Holy Communion with lively faith that we might consent each day to be “another humanity” for your Son.

Remind us that like you, we too are His living tabernacles wherever the Father's will sends us.

OMother of the Eucharist, look with anxious concern upon all of your children—especially the young who are departing from the Church in alarming numbers.

Bring us back to your Son in the Blessed Sacrament, back to the entire sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Do not allow souls to live cut off from your Son's saving presence and action in the Holy Eucharist, for here is the Church's entire spiritual wealth, the inexhaustible source of divine life and holiness.

With maternal concern, O Mother of the Eucharist, look upon the many who have not been properly catechized, the many who know nothing of the Real Presence of your Son in the Eucharist, those who undervalue it, treat it lightly or disregard its sacredness, those who are confused by the dark clouds of unacceptable doctrine and practice, and are spiritually starved and dying because they lack the true Bread from Heaven.

OMary, you who undo the power of error, inspire and assist all of God's people, especially the bishops and priests, to guard the precious treasure of the Holy Eucharist and protect it from desecration, sacrilege, coldness, indifference and neglect.

Rid the Church of the sacrilegious communions of those who receive it with a sullied and corrupt conscience, or mindless routine, those who obstinately persist in outward conduct that is seriously, clearly,

and steadfastly contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Correct their consciences by the convicting light of the Holy Spirit, to realize their self-deception and duplicity, and to be reconciled to God and to the Church who awaits them with urgent and prayerful care and concern.

Gladden and renew all hearts in the true faith, **GO** Mary, by dispersing these dark clouds and destroying all heresies and schisms.²

Reveal to all hearts the luminous mystery of the Holy Eucharist, in which your Son, in the mystery of His death and resurrection, gives Himself to each communicant by true sacramental contact and intimate loving union; in which your Son makes the precious gift of Himself to each soul—the gift of His person in His sacred humanity and the gift of His saving work.

Rekindle anew the fire of Eucharistic faith and devotion throughout the Church, and restore to the visible unity of the Catholic Church those separated from full communion.

Through the powerful action of the transforming Spirit make the Church herself a luminous mystery of Eucharistic faith, shining out to our brothers and sisters of different Christian confessions—who have a right to our witness to the truth—that they too may believe in the Eucharist, and come with hungry hearts to receive the true Bread from Heaven, your Son Jesus Christ!

Holy, Holy, Holy!

1 *Prayers of Pope Pius XII*: Newman Press, Westminster, Maryland 1957, p. 3 - Marian Year Prayer: "O crystal Fountain of faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of all holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave of hell!"

Also see p. 225 of the *Sacramentary for Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*: "The Mother of the Lord is frequently honored under the title of fountain in the liturgies of East and West..." The entire explanation is worth pondering.

2 See p. 237 of the *Sacramentary for Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary*: "The glorious Mother of God, who destroys all heresies, who undoes the power of error and exposes the falsehood of idols...has been invoked by the Christian people from very early times as a 'pillar of faith'."