

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

I. THE EUCHARIST - SOURCE AND SUMMIT OF ECCLESIAL LIFE

1324 The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."¹³⁶ "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."¹³⁷

1325 "The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit."¹³⁸

1326 Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all.¹³⁹

1327 In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."¹⁴⁰

PROCESSION

Procession has long been a form of liturgical worship. At the beginning of mass there is a procession to the Sanctuary. The gifts of bread and wine to be used at the mass are processed to the foot of the altar. The faithful process to receive Holy Eucharist. At the end of mass, the faithful are sent out nourished with heavenly food to process into their daily lives as witnesses of their faith. Each of these acts is a form of witness. We extend this witness is a special way during the Eucharistic procession.

"The Catholic Church has always displayed and still displays this latria that ought to be paid to the Sacrament of the Eucharist, both during Mass and outside of it, by taking the greatest possible care of consecrated hosts, by exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful, and by carrying them about in processions to the joy of great numbers of the people."¹
(Pope St. Paul VI writes of special forms of worship of the Eucharist)

PURPOSE

In the procession we follow this sign [Christ carried in the monstrance] and in this way we follow Christ himself. And we ask of him: Guide us on the paths of our history! Show the Church and her Pastors again and again the right path! Look at suffering humanity, cautiously seeking a way through so much doubt; look upon the physical and mental hunger that torments it! Give men and women bread for body and soul! Give them work! Give them light! Give them yourself! Purify and sanctify all of us! Make us understand that only through participation in your Passion, through "yes" to the cross, to self-denial, to the purifications that you impose upon us, our lives can mature and arrive at true fulfilment. Gather us together from all corners of the earth. Unite your Church, unite wounded humanity! Give us your salvation! Amen.
(Pope Benedict, Corpus Christi 2006)

1. The source texts for Eucharistic Processions is Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass (HCWEOM), #'s 101-108 and Ceremonial of Bishops #'s 385-394.