**WORDS TO PONDER**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

“The Eucharist, and its fellowship, will be all the more complete, the more we prepare ourselves for Him in silent prayer before the Eucharistic presence of the Lord, the more we truly receive Communion.

“Adoration such as that is always more than just talking with God in a general way …

“The Eucharist means God has answered: The Eucharist is God as an answer, as an answering presence. Now the initiative no longer lies with us, in the God-man relationship, but with Him, and it now becomes really serious. That is why, in the sphere of Eucharistic adoration, prayer attains a new level; now it is two-way, and so now it really is a serious business.”

_Benedictus: Writings of the Holy Father, part IV_

**Pope John Paul II**

“With ever-living ardor, contemplate Christ in the mystery of the Eucharist. Following His example, be ready in all circumstances to make yourselves instruments of mercy and communion. The secret of pastoral success is the crucified and risen Lord, Whom we adore in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As you well know, in order to be eloquent signs of His love and instigators of His peace in all environments, everyone is first of all asked to cultivate an intimate and constant familiarity with Him. From intense participation in the Eucharist springs the spiritual energy needed to bring all projects of goodness to fruition.”

_Lenten Message, February 19, 2005_

**Father John A. Hardon, S.J.**

“We are to believe that the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, simply, without qualification. It is God become man in the fullness of His divine nature, in the fullness of His human nature, in the fullness of His body and soul, in the fullness of everything that makes Jesus Jesus. He is in the Eucharist with His human mind and will united with Divinity, with His hands and feet, His face and features, with His eyes and lips and ears and nostrils, with His affections and emotions and, with emphasis, with His living, pulsating, physical Sacred Heart. That is what our Catholic Faith demands of us that we believe. If we believe this, we are Catholic. If we do not, we are not, no matter what people may think we are.”

_On The Real Presence, Father John A. Hardon, S.J._

**Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke, D.D., J.C.D.**

Archbishop of St. Louis, Missouri

“In the Holy Eucharist, we come to understand the truth about our own earthly journey, our pilgrimage home to God the Father. The truth is that our pilgrimage is with and in Christ. The perfection of our life is found in knowing, loving and imitating Christ. Where most do we find Christ and come to understand the mystery of His life for us? It is in the Holy Eucharist. Pope John Paul II wrote in _Ecclesia de Eucharistia_: ‘In the Eucharistic, we have His resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have adoration, obedience and the love of the Father’.”

_Reflections on Encyclical Letter, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, (2003)_

**Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.**

Archbishop of Chicago, Illinois

“In this sacrament of the Eucharist, we who celebrate and receive also are changed and truly become Christ’s holy people. This divine mystery cannot be reduced to an event within the walls of a church, and so we process into the streets of the world. We go forth with hymns and prayers, bearing the sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord. We go where the life of the human family is bubbling, where its passions are boiling, where its conflicts explode, where its sufferings are consumed and its hopes flower. We go to give testimony with humble joy that this Eucharistic host is the answer to the most pressing questions, comfort for every pain and sorrow, and a pledge of satisfaction for that burning thirst for happiness and love which lies in the secret of our hearts.”

_National Eucharistic Congress, Eucharistic Procession (2000)_

**Bishop J. Peter Sartain**

Joliet, Illinois

“We are changed when we participate in the Eucharist, because the gifts we make of ourselves are taken by the Lord and offered with His gift, Himself, to the Father. Fed with the Body and Blood, we are sent to live as He lived, to empty ourselves for others. When we pray in His Eucharistic presence, He takes us beyond words, and our relationship with Him, our desire to give ourselves to Him, is deepened.

“It is for that reason that Eucharistic adoration flows from the Mass and leads us back to Mass. Jesus’ abiding presence in the Blessed Sacrament is His way of drawing us continually into His presence.”

_Of You My Heart Has Spoken, by Bishop J. Peter Sartain_
HE STILL SAYS, “COME TO ME!”

“Neither Advent nor the tomb is Christ’s final rest in the world. He rests in the midst of the world now, in the Host.

“Christ could show His power and glory; He could show that the Host is God; He could break down pride of those who have no fear of God. He does not. While injustice and arrogance prevail, He remains silent and helpless, and seems to do nothing at all.

“It has always been Christ’s way to come first in secret, to come in a hidden way, to be secret even in those in whom He abides, whose life He is, to be known first by His love, gradually becoming known by the quickening of His life within them and only afterwards by His face or by His power, by word that commands the wind and the water.

“The Host is resting among us in order that Christ may work the miracle of His love in us, changing us almost imperceptibly into Himself, in order that through us His love may overcome the world.”

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“Wood of the Cradle, Wood of the Cross”
by Caryll Houselander
published by Sophia Institute Press
www.sophiainstitute.com