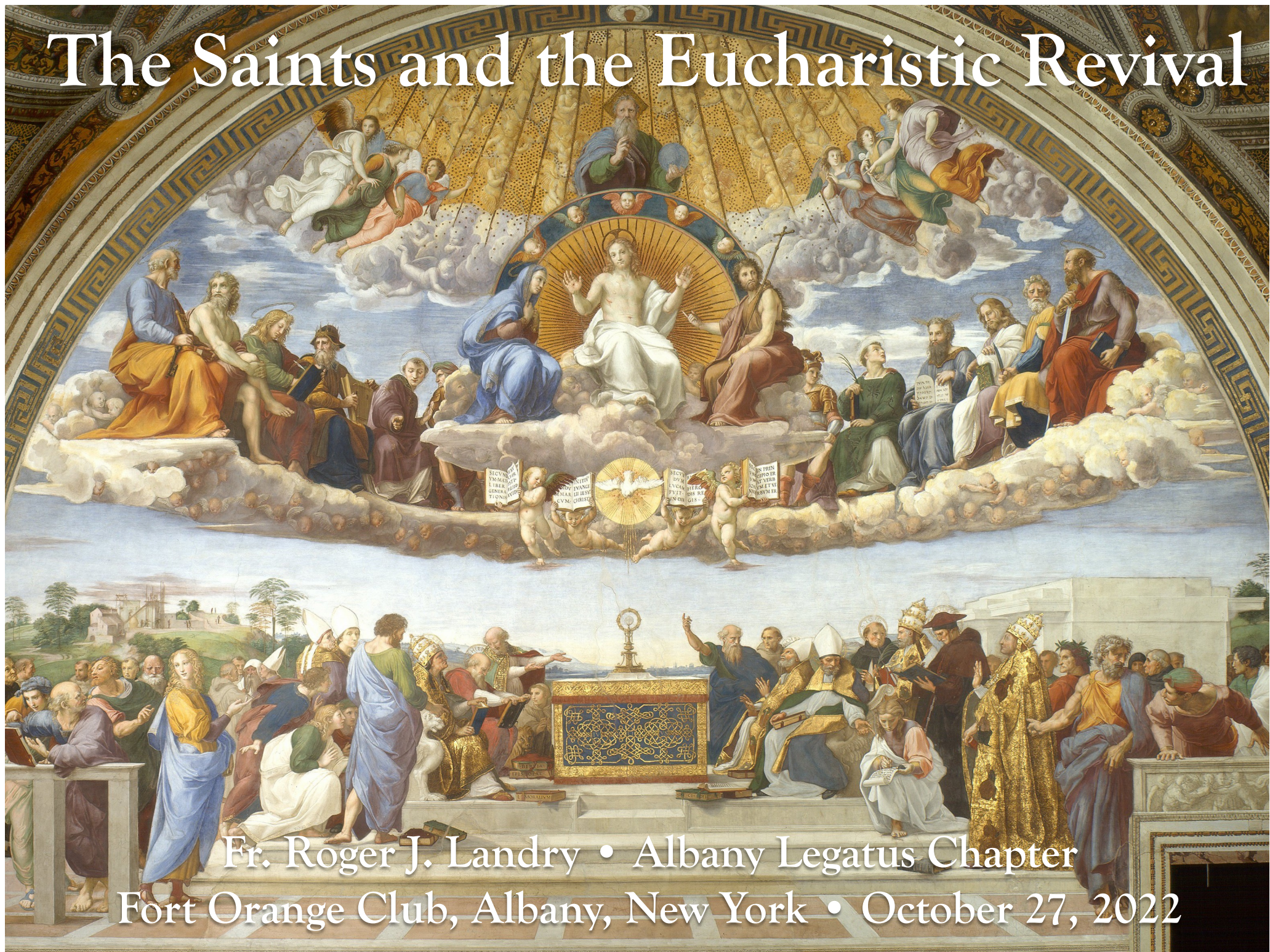


The Saints and the Eucharistic Revival

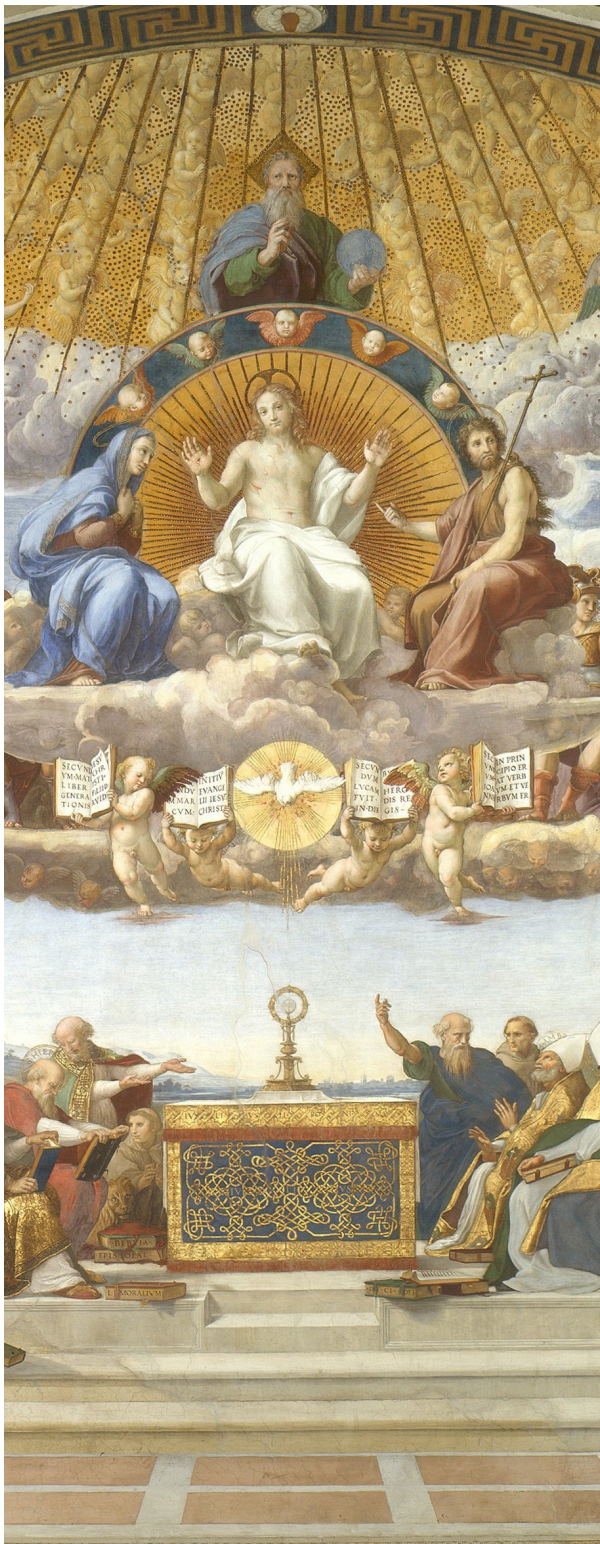


Fr. Roger J. Landry • Albany Legatus Chapter

Fort Orange Club, Albany, New York • October 27, 2022

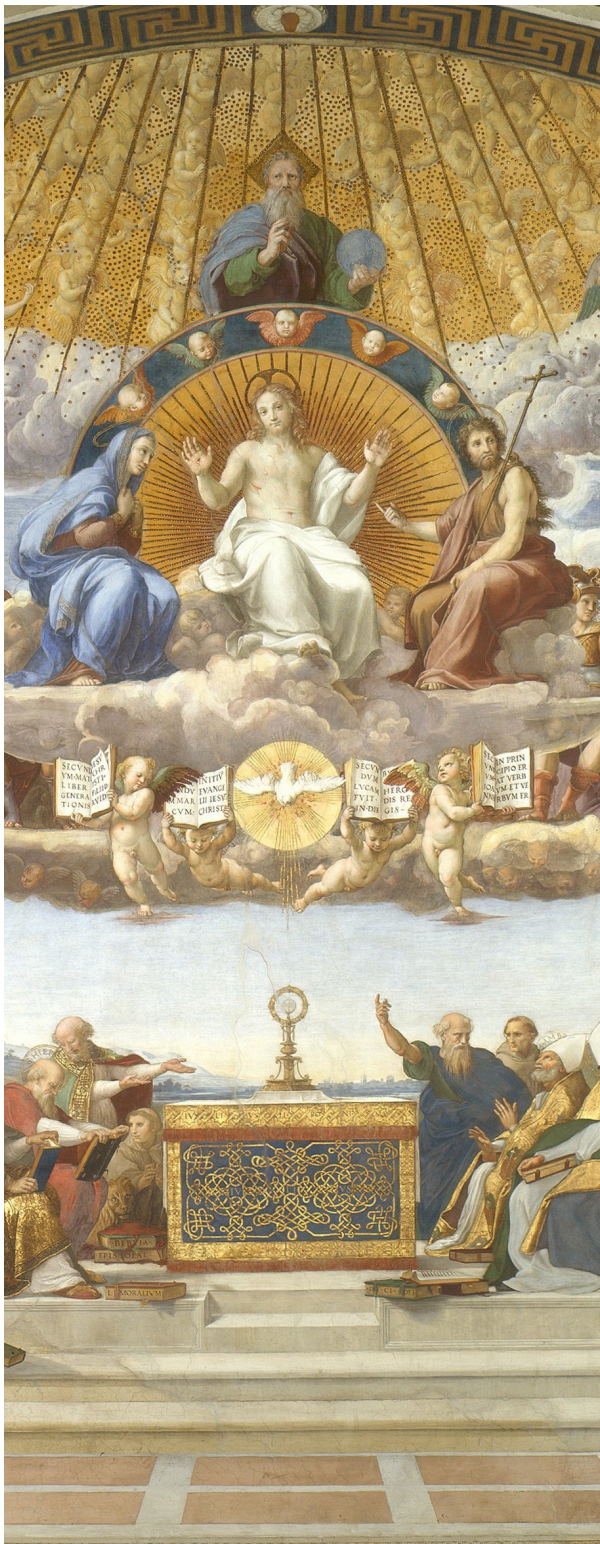
Day and Month of All Saints

- On November 1, the Catholic Church celebrates All Saints Day.
- We celebrate all those in heaven, the famous saints who have been canonized, as well as the many “saints next door” who have not been canonized.
- We focus on their virtues.
- We ask for their intercession.
- We stoke our hunger for holiness and heaven, remembering the “universal call to holiness.”
- As we ponder the “four last things” throughout the month, we recall that we’ll either become a saint or be definitely self-alienated from God.



National Eucharistic Revival

- This year, All Saints Day takes place within the 3-year+ initiative of the Church in the United States, to renew Eucharistic knowledge, faith, amazement, love, life and witness.
- Concerns with regard to belief in the Eucharist, frequency of Mass attendance and other trends.
- Various phases:
 - Dioceses (June 19, 2022 to June 11, 2023)
 - Parishes (June 11, 2023 to July 17, 2024)
 - National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis.
 - Mission – July 21, 2024 to June 8, 2025
- But the most important phase is *personal*.





Revival through the Saints

- The saints are the great teachers of the Christian life. We are able to see in them the impact the Holy Eucharist is meant to have in our life.
- Pope Benedict: “The Eucharist is at the root of every form of holiness, and each of us is called to the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. How many saints have advanced along the way of perfection thanks to their eucharistic devotion! From [18 saints and blessed] to name only a few, holiness has always found its center in the sacrament of the Eucharist” (*Sacramentum Caritatis* 94).



Revival through the Saints

- The saints show us how to make Jesus — really, truly, and substantially present in the Holy Eucharist — the source, summit, root and center of our life.
- They teach us how to unite ourselves in Holy Communion with Him who is “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and how to allow that holiness to flow in the communion of a Eucharistic life.
- Tonight we can focus on ten different saints who teach us different attributes of a Eucharistic life, asking them to intercede for us that we may obtain those virtues.



Eucharistic Hunger

- St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) born in France, desired to be a Jesuit, priest, and missionary, in order not just to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the New World but Jesus himself in the Blessed Sacrament.
- He was accustomed in seminary not only to attending Mass every day but to spending long vigils in prayer before the tabernacle. He well knew that as a missionary, traveling by canoe for days, with limited supplies of unleavened bread and wine, there would likely be times when he would not have access to the altar or tabernacle, but he longed to be able to found new chapels, altars, and tabernacles so that many others who did not know yet the ongoing reality of Christ's incarnation might come to realize that God is with them, too.



Eucharistic Hunger

- After six years as a missionary, he was captured by the Mohawks close to Three Rivers in Quebec. He was brought down to Ossernenon, modern Aurieville, on the northern lip of the Mohawk River. Among the tortures St. Isaac needed to endure was to have his thumbs and index fingers severely mutilated, which meant that even if he had the liberty to celebrate Mass, he would no longer be able to, because according to the rubrics at the time, the priest had to hold the consecrated host exclusively with those severed digits.
- This man of the Eucharist ended up going 17 months without even being able to receive the Eucharist, until, with the help of the Dutch, he was able to escape through modern day Albany, Manhattan, and England to arrive in France on Christmas Day 1643.

Eucharistic Hunger

- As soon as he disembarked and had asked directions to the closest Church, he went to confession, attended Mass and received Holy Communion. “It was then,” he said, “that I began to live again and tasted the sweetness of my deliverance.”
- Through the help of the Jesuit Provincial and the Queen of France, he petitioned Pope Urban VIII for a dispensation. The Pope replied, “*Indignum esset Christi martyrem Christi non bibere sanguinem.*” “It would be unworthy that a martyr of Christ not drink Christ’s blood.” Finally, in March 1644, after 20 months, he was able to go up to the altar of God, hold Christ in his mangled hands, and receive Christ’s Precious Body and Blood.
- He was martyred ultimately because of the Mass kit he had left in Auriesville in preparation for Mass.



Eucharistic Amazement



- Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2016) is the first millennial to be raised to the altars. He is the second co-patron of the Eucharistic Revival.
- After receiving his first Communion at 7, he became thereafter a daily Mass goer until he died of acute promyelocytic leukemia at 15.
- At the age of 11, he learned computer programming to build websites to catalogue and promote Eucharistic miracles. He researched and wrote about them until they grew to a 196-part series. In 2005 it was exhibited in the Vatican during a conference on Eucharistic miracles during the Year of the Eucharist. It now continues to travel the world.
- “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.”
- “The more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we become like Jesus”

Eucharistic Amazement

- “I think that many people do not fully understand the value of the Mass, because if they recognized the enormous blessing we have in a Lord who gives himself as our food and drink in the Sacred Host, they would go to Mass every day to participate in the fruits of the sacrifice and let go of so many superfluous things.”
- When he would receive Holy Communion, he’d pray in thanksgiving: “Jesus, come right in! Make yourself at home!”
- In a “Holiness kit” he made for the students he taught in catechism, he wrote: “Try to go every day to Mass and to receive Holy Communion. ... If you can, stay a few minutes every day in Eucharistic adoration in front of the tabernacle where Jesus is really present, and you will see your level of holiness increase considerably.”



Eucharistic Reparation



- Bishop Manuel Gonzalez Garcia (1877-1940), one of the two co-patrons of the Eucharistic Revival, was Bishop of Malaga and then Palencia and is the founder of the Eucharistic Missionaries of Nazareth (1935), the Disciples of St. John (1910) and the Children of Reparation (1935). Pope St. Pius X very much approved of his work. He is known as the “Bishop of the Tabernacle” for spreading devotion to the Eucharist and encouraging frequent communion. He was beatified in 2001 and canonized in 2016.
- In 1902, the year after his ordination, he went to serve in one of the parishes of his diocese, Palomares del Rio and found the Church filthy and Jesus in the tabernacle abandoned. It changed his life.

Eucharistic Reparation



- “On that afternoon, in that moment in which I was before the tabernacle, I saw that my priesthood would consist of a work of which I had never before dreamt. ... I found myself to be a priest in a town that didn’t love Jesus, and I would have to love him in the name of everybody in that town. I would dedicate my priesthood to taking care of Jesus in the needs of his life in the tabernacle: to feed him with my love, to keep him warm with my presence, to entertain him with my conversations, to defend him against abandonment and ingratitude, to give relief to his Heart with my holy sacrifices, to serve him with my feet by taking him wherever he is desired, and with my hands by giving alms in his name, even to those who do not love him, and with my mouth by speaking of him and consoling others in his name, and by crying out to those who do not want to hear him, until finally they would listen and begin to follow him. This would be a beautiful priesthood!
- When he was dying, he said, “I ask to be buried next to a tabernacle, so that my bones, after death, as my tongue and my pen in life, are saying to those who pass: there is Jesus! There it is! Do not leave him abandoned!”



Eucharistic Accompaniment

- St. Kateri (1656-1680) was born in Auriesville ten years after the martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues, of a Christian Algonquin mom and a Mohawk dad.
- When she was 19, she had a chance to talk to Jesuit Father Jacques de Lamberville, telling him she wanted to learn more about prayer and be baptized. “Who can tell me what is most pleasing to God that I may do it?,” she asked. After he tested her resolve, she was baptized the following Easter, and grew quickly in faith.
- Her Christian life was such a sign of contradiction to her fellow Mohawks that Father de Lamberville, to save her life, arranged for her escape to the Jesuit village of Caughnawaga, 200 miles north, just south of Montreal. There she made her first Holy Communion on Christmas 1677.



Eucharistic Accompaniment

- From that point forward she lived a thoroughly Eucharistic life, adoring Jesus outside the locked chapel – on her knees, despite snow, ice and freezing cold – for an hour until it opened at 5 am, attending Mass and adoring Jesus inside until it was time for work and acts of charity, and returning after work for several more hours of adoration. When she traveled outside the village for the hunting season, she prayed in spiritual communion and adoration before a crucifix she would place in a tree.
- She died on the cusp of Holy Thursday in 1680, at the age of 24. Her final words were a summary of her brief but profound Eucharistic faith and life: “Jesus, I love you.”



Eucharistic Love

- St. Thomas Aquinas (122–1274) is perhaps the most famous Eucharistic saint, putting the Church's faith into theological texts, prayers, poetry and hymns.
- For the first celebration of Corpus Christi in 1264, the Angelic Doctor responded to Pope Urban IV's request to write the liturgical prayers. Besides the prayers and the breviary lessons, antiphons, etc. he ended up writing five Eucharist hymns catechizing us about the Eucharist through what we would prayerfully sing. In this way we see an illustration of *lex orandi lex credendi*.
- At the very end of his life, he had two mystical experiences that flowed from the depth of his Eucharistic Life:
 - “All that I have written appears to be as so much straw after the things that have been revealed to me.”
 - “*Non aliam nisi Tu, Domine!*”



Eucharistic Love

- From his Eucharistic Hymns:
 - *Quantum potes, tantum aude* – dare to do all you can!
 - *Credo quidquid dixit Dei Filius; Nil hoc verbo Veritatis verius* – Source of Eucharistic faith.
 - *O res mirabilis: manducat Dominum pauper et servus humilis!* – O What a mindblowing reality, that a poor and humble servant eats the Lord.
 - *Jesu, quem velatum nunc aspicio, Oro, fiat illud quod tam sitio: Ut te revelata cernens facie, Visu sim beatus tuæ gloriæ* – From the Eucharist to the Beatific Vision!



Eucharistic Gratitude

- St. John Vianney (1786-1859) is the patron saint of parish priests, who revolutionized his parish through helping them make their lives Eucharistic.
- He focused on the priority of Sunday, the truth of the Mass, the meaning of Jesus' Real Presence, the importance of frequent communion, and on imitating Christ's Eucharistic self-giving. His 12-18 hours in the confessional each day for 31 straight years was to get people fit to receive Jesus.
- "Attending Mass is the greatest action we can do."
- "Next to this sacrament, we are like someone who dies of thirst next to a river, just needing to bend the head down to drink; or like a poor man next to a treasure chest, when all that is needed is to stretch out the hand."



Eucharistic Gratitude

- “All the good works taken together do not equal the sacrifice of the Mass, because they are the works of men and the holy Mass is the work of God. The martyr is nothing in comparison, because martyrdom is the sacrifice that man makes to God of his life; the Mass is the sacrifice that God makes for man of his body and blood.”
- “If we had had one favor to ask of Our Lord, we would never have thought to ask him that!” ... We would never have thought of asking God for his own Son. But what man couldn't say or conceive, what he never would have dared desire, God in his love has said, conceived and executed. ... Since all this is true, man cannot imagine the things that God will do. He went further in his designs of love than we could have dreamed.”



Eucharistic Courage

- St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) ran away from home in 1212 to live according to the manner of the holy Gospels, under the guidance of St. Francis.
- In 1241, when Frederick II of Sweden was attacking Assisi, he and his troops put up ladders against the Convent of San Damiano.
- St. Clare, though sick, got the Blessed Sacrament, asking Jesus to defend his handmaids. He replied, “I will always defend you.” She asked for him likewise to protect the city. He said, “It will be troubled, but defended by my protection.”
- She held the monstrance out the window and Frederick’s troops, gazing upon the monstrance as upon God, retreated and fled.
- It’s called the “Eucharistic Miracle of Assisi.”

Eucharistic Charity

- St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997) is without doubt one of the greatest and most compelling saints of modern times. A 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner, she was voted in a 1999 Gallup poll the most widely admired person of the twentieth century.
- Her life shows how the Eucharist is meant to make every believer a missionary of charity. Recognizing, adoring, loving and receiving Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist propelled her to recognize, love, welcome and care for him under even the most distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor.
- “The Eucharist and the poor are inseparable,” she said. “The One who said, ‘This is my body’ is the same one who said, ‘I was hungry and you gave me to eat’” (cf. Mt 26:26; 25:35).





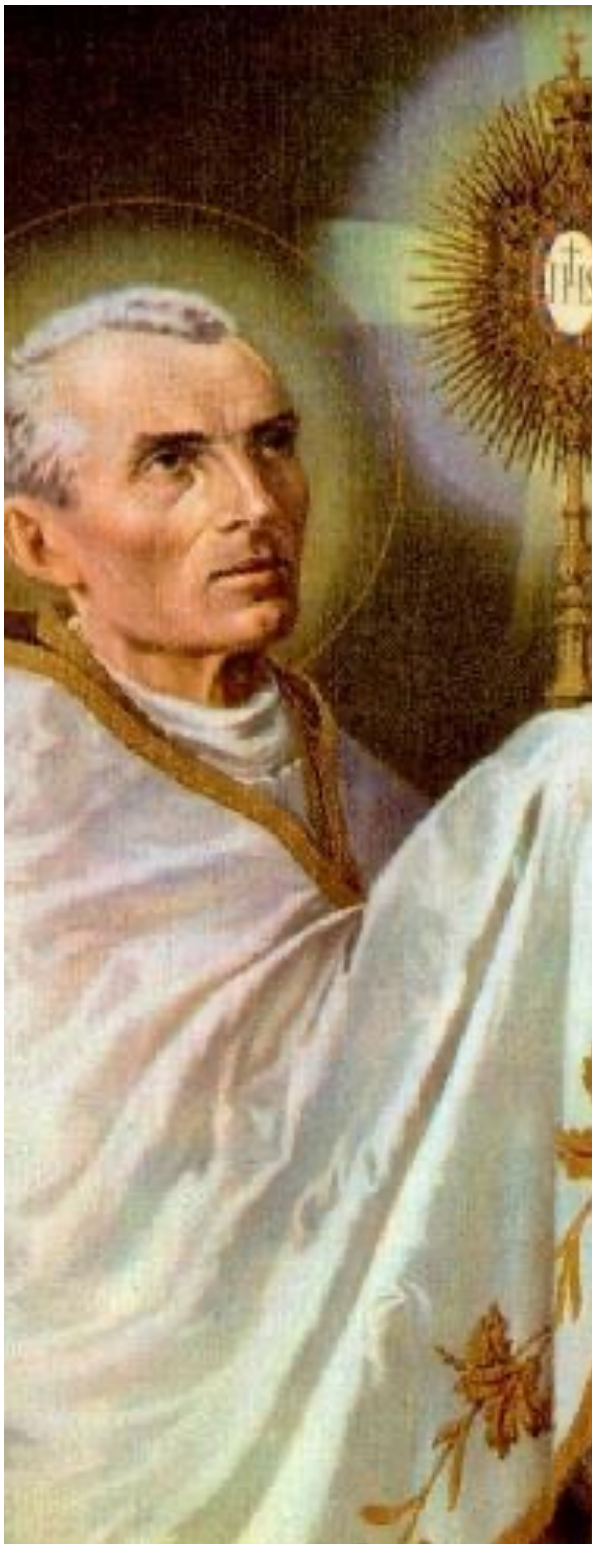
Eucharistic Charity

- The Eucharist is what perpetually gave her and her fellow missionaries strength. “People ask,” she confessed, “Where do the sisters get the joy and the energy to do what they are doing?” She replied, “The Eucharist.” At the 1976 Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, she elaborated on that source of power: “To be able to live this life, ... we need our life to be woven with the Eucharist. That’s why we begin our day with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. With him, we go forward.”
- In a talk in Los Angeles, she encouraged Catholics in the United States to spend more time praying before Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, saying, “People ask me: ‘What will convert America and save the world?’ My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer.”

Eucharistic Apostolate

- St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868) is called the Apostle of the Eucharist.
- At 5, he went missing and his family found him in Church, on a small stool, with his ear to the tabernacle. He told his sister he wanted to hear Jesus better.
- A diocesan priest, then a Marist, and finally, in 1856, the founder of the Society of the Blessed Sacrament. Two years later, for religious women, he founded the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. Both focused on Eucharist devotion, especially preparing children for First Communion and bringing non-practicing Catholics back.





Eucharistic Apostolate

- “The Eucharist is everything, because from the Eucharist, everything is.”
- “Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself.”
- “Mary found again in the adorable Host the adorable fruit of her womb... and began in the Cenacle her new maternity at the feet of Jesus in the Eucharist”
- “Be the apostle of the divine Eucharist, like a flame which enlightens and warms, like the Angel of his heart who will go to proclaim him to those who don't know him and will encourage those who love him and are suffering.”

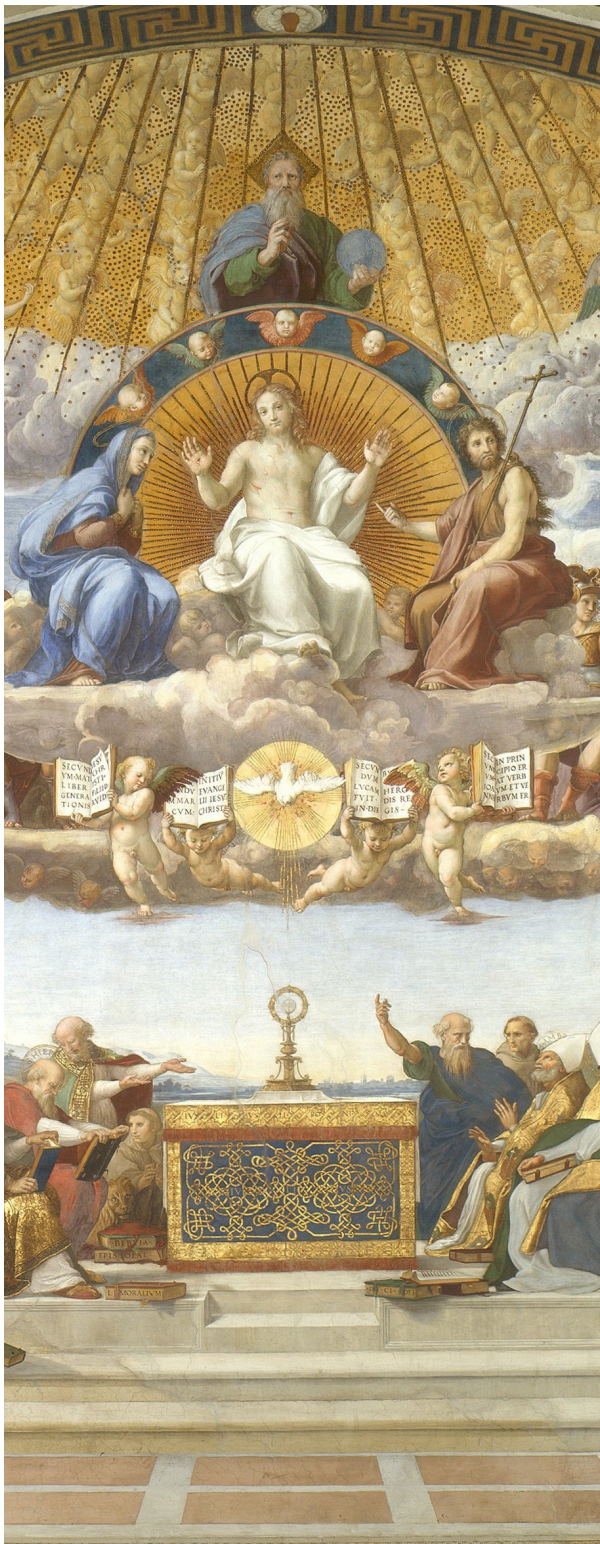
Eucharistic Indispensability

- The Martyrs of Abitene (d. 304) show us what it means truly to live Eucharistic lives, off Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.
- They were told by the Roman pro-consul that if they assembled on Sunday morning for Mass in the house of Octavius Felix, they would be arrested and executed. They thanked him for the notice... but then still all 49 Christians in the town came together on the Lord's Day. When the flabbergasted pro-consul asked them why they didn't heed his warning, one of them, Emeritus, simply said, "*Sine Dominico non possumus!*" "Without the Lord on Sunday, we cannot live."



Lessons from the Saints

- So among the lessons we can learn from the saints, and seek with their intercession to emulate, in this month of November, throughout the Eucharistic Revival and beyond are:
 - Eucharistic Hunger
 - Eucharistic Amazement
 - Eucharistic Reparation
 - Eucharistic Accompaniment
 - Eucharistic Love
 - Eucharistic Gratitude
 - Eucharistic Courage
 - Eucharistic Charity
 - Eucharistic Apostolate
 - Eucharistic Indispensability.
- As Pope Benedict says and Church history attests: The Eucharist is the path “root” and “route” of holiness!





Welcome!

I warmly welcome you to this website, put together at the insistence and with the assistance of friends.

During my diaconal ordination, Cardinal Edmund Szoka gave me the following instruction from the Ordination Rite as together we gripped the Book of the Gospels:

*"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you now are.
Believe what you read.
Teach what you believe.
Practice what you teach."*

Those words have never lost their resonance.

Since that day -- October 8, 1998 -- I have tried to live up to that commission to be a "herald of the Gospel," by striving to teach what the Church believes, to practice what I preach to others, and to spread with joy and enthusiasm the truth Christ has entrusted to His church -- in and out of season, in and out of the pulpit.

This website is a chronicle of those attempts. You may also follow postings of articles, homilies and teachings on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.

You can also subscribe to the podcast of daily homilies, lectures and talks through Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts.

It constitutes the "five loaves and two fish" (or even less!) that I have placed into the hands of the Lord as an attempt to feed a hungry crowd, confident that, if He wishes, He can multiply and supplement that meager offering to nourish many more (Jn 6:1-14).

In Christ,
Fr. Roger J. Landry



Most Recent Homilies

God's Comfort and the Conversion Required to Receive It, Second Sunday of Advent (B), December 6, 2020

Accepting, Following and Announcing Jesus without Offense, Second Sunday of Advent (EF), December 6, 2020

Walking the Way of the Kingdom Jesus Indicates, First Saturday of Advent, December 5, 2020

Running to Meet Our Light, Strength and Salvation, First Friday of Advent, December 4, 2020

Listening to and Acting on the Long Awaited One's Words, First Thursday of Advent, December 3, 2020

Going Hungry to Meet Christ in a Three-Fold Banquet, First Wednesday of Advent, December 2, 2020

Childlike Eyes to See, First Tuesday of Advent, December 1, 2020

Singing the Song of the Lamb, 34th Wednesday (II), November 25, 2020

Turning to the Lord Who Comes to Judge the Earth, 34th Tuesday (II), November 24, 2020

Following the King and Lamb Wherever He Goes, 34th Monday (II), November 23, 2020

Most Recent Articles

Our Duty and Salvation, The Anchor, November 27, 2020

Living the Reality of the Kingdom of Christ, National Catholic Register, November 19, 2020

The Knights Our Age Needs, The Anchor, November 13, 2020

Remembering Andrew Walther, November 7, 2020

Just a Parish Priest, The Anchor, October 30, 2020

Coming to Know the Original Three-Dimensional Carlo Acutis, The Anchor, October 16, 2020

A Good Shepherd Full of Christian and Priestly Virtues, The Pilot, October 5, 2020

Returning to the Sacrament of Divine Love, The Anchor, September 18, 2020

The Pastoral Malpractice of Liturgical Abuse, The Anchor, September 4, 2020

The Chosen, The Anchor, August 21, 2020

Most Recent Talks

Receiving the Lord Jesus as Mary and Joseph, Advent Day of Recollection for the Leonine Forum, December 5, 2020

Novena in Preparation for the Immaculate Conception, Leonine Forum, November 28 to December 8, 2020

Blessed Michael McGivney and the Call to Holiness, McGivney Festival Young Adult Prayer Vigil, October 31, 2020

Apprenticeship in the Art of Living, Duc in Altum Virtual Schools Summit, October 28-30, 2020

Preaching on Marital Love and Accompanying Couples toward the Full Embrace of the Church's Teaching, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Divorced and Remarried, Challenges and Triumphs in Pastoral Care, Diocese of Gary Clergy Convocation, October 20, 2020

The Heart of the New Evangelization: Meeting, Knowing and Loving Jesus Back, New Zealand Evangelion's In his Name Virtual Conference, October 10-11, 2020

Christian Anthropology: The Human Person in the Modern World, Leonine Forum Opening Lecture, October 8, 2020

Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching, UNSRC Catholic Club, August 27, 2020

Making Better Confessions, Catholic Information Conference, July 24, 2020

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Questions and Comments

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