

Eucharistic Amazement (I)

1. **John Paul II (2004):** “[The Church’s] foundation and wellspring is the whole *Triduum paschale*, but this is as it were gathered up, foreshadowed and concentrated forever in the gift of the Eucharist. In this gift Jesus Christ entrusted to his Church the perennial making present of the paschal mystery. With it he brought about a mysterious “oneness in time” between that Triduum and the passage of the centuries... The thought of this leads us to profound amazement and gratitude... I would like to rekindle this Eucharistic “amazement” by the present Encyclical Letter.”¹

Christians

2. **Christians:** Χριστιανός (Christianos) – followers of Christ
3. **Acts 11:26:** “It was in Antioch that the *disciples* were first called ‘Christians’”
4. **John 3:16:** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in him *may not perish* but may have *eternal life*.”
5. **Benedict XVI:** “Unity does not come about by polemics or by academic argument but by the radiance of Easter joy; this is what leads to the core of the Christian profession, namely: Jesus is risen. This leads, too, to the core of our humanity, which yearns for this joy with its every fiber. So it is this Easter joy which is fundamental to all ecumenical and missionary activity; this is where Christians should vie with each other; this is what they should show forth to the world. This too is the purpose of Corpus Christi.”²

¹ John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, §5-6.

² Benedict XVI, “What Corpus Christi means for me: Three meditations” in *Theology of the Liturgy*.

Christ's Dwelling

6. **John 1:14:** “The Word became flesh and *dwelt* among us.”
7. **Dwelling:** Dwelt ἐσκήνωσεν (eskenusen) from the root σκηνώω (skenu) - I encamp. σκηνή (skene) - tabernacle
8. **John Paul II:** “The Lord Jesus has pitched His tent among us and, from this His Eucharistic dwelling.”³
9. **Shekinah** (הַכְּבוֹד): “And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them.” (Exodus 25:8).

Eucharistic Presence

10. **CCC #1374** “... In the most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist, ‘the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.’ This presence is called ‘real’ - by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be ‘real’ too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes Himself wholly and entirely present.”
11. **CCC #1373:** “Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us,’ is present in many ways to His Church: in His word, in His Church's prayer, ‘where two or three are gathered in my name,’ in the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, in the sacraments of which He is the author, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and in the person of the minister. But ‘He is present . . . *most especially in the Eucharistic species.*’”
12. **Genesis 15:3-13:** ³Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵*He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if*

³ John Paul II, *Message for the 37th World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, 14 May, 2000.
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you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.¹³ Then the Lord said to Abram.....

Eucharistic Amazement (II)

13. **John Paul II:** I would like to rekindle this Eucharistic “amazement” by the present Encyclical Letter, in continuity with the Jubilee heritage which I have left to the Church in the Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* and its Marian crowning, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. To contemplate the face of Christ, and to contemplate it with Mary, is the “programme” which I have set before the Church at the dawn of the third millennium, summoning her to put out into the deep on the sea of history with the enthusiasm of the new evangelization. To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood. The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist; by him she is fed and by him she is enlightened. The Eucharist is both a mystery of faith and a “mystery of light”. Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: “their eyes were opened and they recognized him” (Lk 24:31).⁴

14. **WOW!**

⁴ John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, §6.
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