



ORDER OF EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

FORWARD

The Second Vatican Council teaches that taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice is the “source and summit of Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium* 11) and that 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” (*Presbyterum Ordinis* 5). In short, for Catholics the Eucharist is essential to our life of faith and fuels and informs our participation in the world.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a form of Eucharistic cult which is particularly widespread in the Church and earnestly recommended to her Pastors and faithful. Its initial form derives from Holy Thursday and the altar of repose. This adoration is a most apt way of expressing the connection between the celebration of the memorial of the Lord's Sacrifice and his continued presence in the Sacrament of the Altar. The reservation of the Sacred Species, so as to be able to administer Viaticum to the sick at any time, encouraged the practice among the faithful of recollection before the tabernacle and to worship Christ present in the Sacrament.

Indeed, this worship of adoration has a sound and firm foundation, especially since faith in the Lord's real presence has as its natural consequence the outward and public manifestation of that belief. Therefore, the devotion prompting the faithful to visit the blessed sacrament draws them into an ever deeper share in the paschal mystery and leads them to respond gratefully to the gift of him who through his humanity constantly pours divine life into the members of his Body. Abiding with Christ the Lord, they enjoy his intimate friendship and pour out their hearts before him for themselves and for those dear to them and they pray for the peace and salvation of the world. (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* 164-164)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

When Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament immediately follows Mass:

- A new host for the Monstrance is to be consecrated during the Mass.
- While the distribution of Holy Communion is underway, ministers should prepare the altar with the monstrance, the stand (if one is used), and four to six candles.
- Following the distribution of Holy Communion, the presider may purify the vessels, though it is preferred if this can be done following the celebration. The presider exposes the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance and is then seated.
- Following a period of sacred silence, the presider stands and leads the Prayer after Communion, after which, the concluding rites are omitted. The presider kneels before the Blessed Sacrament and all join in singing an appropriate hymn.
- Incense is ordinarily used, and the Blessed Sacrament is incensed three times from a kneeling position.

When Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament happens apart from the celebration of Mass, the following is observed:

- The altar is prepared with the monstrance, the stand (if one is used), and four to six candles.
- The presiding priest, deacon or acolyte retrieves the Blessed Sacrament from the tabernacle and exposes the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance.
- Then all kneel for the singing of the hymn.
- Incense is ordinarily used, and the Blessed Sacrament is incensed three times from a kneeling position.

HYMN: O Salutaris Hostia – CBWIII 689

O salutaris hostia	O Saving Victim, op'ning wide
Quae caeli pandis ostium	The gate of heav'n to us below!
Bella premunt hostilia;	Our foes press on from ev'ry side:
Da robur fer auxilium	Your aid supply, your strength bestow.
Uni Trinoque Domino	To your great name be endless praise,
Sit sempiterna gloria:	Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
Qui vitam sine termino,	O grant us endless length of days
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.	When our true native land we see. Amen.

TIME OF PRAYER

- *During expositions, there should be prayers, songs and readings from scripture to direct the attention of the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord. This might include the Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet.*
- *A homily or a brief exhortation may be given to develop a better understanding of the Eucharistic mystery.*
- *A reading from one of the Church Fathers may be read, or poetry from the Breviary.*
- *Part of the Liturgy of the Hours, especially morning or evening prayer may be celebrated before the Blessed Sacrament.*
- *Intercessory prayers may be offered by the community.*
- *Adequate periods of sacred silence should also be observed.*
- *Where exposition is extended over a lengthy period, special times for communal prayer should be identified.*
- *Benediction may only be given after a suitable period of silence and prayer with the community.*

CONCLUDING RITES

At the appointed time the presiding minister kneels before the monstrance and the hymn is sung. Incense is ordinarily used, and the Blessed Sacrament is incensed three times from a kneeling position.

HYMN: Tantum Ergo Sacramentum – CBWIII 688 or 68

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et Antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui;
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

Come adore this wondrous presence,
Bow to Christ the source of grace.
Here is kept the ancient promise
Of God's earthly dwelling place.
Sight is blind before God's glory,
Faith alone may see His face.

Genitori Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio;
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio;
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Glory be to God the Father,
Praise to His co-equal Son.
Adoration to the Spirit,
Bond of love, in Godhead one.
Blest be God by all creation
Joyously while ages run. Amen.

RESPONSORY

*O Praise the Lord, all you nations, **acclaim him, all you peoples!***

*Strong is his love for us; **he is faithful forever.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The minister stands and prays:

Oremus.

Let us pray.

Deus, qui nobis sub sacra-
mento mirabili, passionis
tuae memoriam reliquisti:
tribue, quaesumus, ita nos
corporis et sanguinis tui
sacra mysteria venerari,
ut redemptionis tuae fructum
in nobis iugiter sentiamus.
Qui vivis et regnas in
secula seculorum.

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us
the Eucharist as the memorial
of your suffering and death.
May our worship of this sacrament
of your body and blood
help us to experience the
salvation you won for us
and the peace of the kingdom
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

R. Amen.

- A presiding priest or deacon dons the humeral veil and gives the Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament.
- When a duly appointed lay person presides, they do not give the Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament but continue with the Divine Praises following the Responsory.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most Holy.
Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His Angels and in His saints.

JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

- The presiding minister reposes the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Then all stand and sing a hymn.

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we praise your Name;	<i>Or</i>	Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Lord of all, we bow before you.		Praise Him, all creatures here below;
All on earth your scepter claim;		Praise Him above, you heav'nly host:
All in heav'n above adore you.		Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
<i>Infinite Your vast domain;</i>		
<i>Everlasting is Your reign. (x2)</i>	<i>Or another suitable hymn.</i>	