

Meditations on Adoration ¹

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament,
Paris, Saturday, June 12, 1858

My Sisters, adoration is the first and the most perfect of all your duties. **What was Mary doing in the Cenacle? She was adoring and that was all she was doing. How was she adoring?** We don't know, since the gospels don't mention this. But we should imagine and believe that her adoration was as perfect as possible, and that it was more perfect than that of all the angels and saints. All the adorations of the heavenly court were not worth the smallest adoration of Mary.

Mary adored Jesus in his hidden life, hiding herself with him, since she did not have the mission to make him known to the world. Mary included everything in the Eucharist, adoring in this mystery all the states of life of our Lord. In this way, she reviewed all the circumstances, the actions, the words, the miracles of his life, as well as his poverty, his hidden life, his passion, his resurrection, and his ascension. She alone held the secret of his intimate life. How well she must have adored Jesus! Her entire life had been one perpetual adoration. She adored him in her womb, which was like a living tabernacle and ciborium; as an infant in the manger and in his crib while he slept. She must have knelt often in front of Jesus. She must have prayed with him, remaining behind him out of respect.

My Sisters, unite with Mary, adoring Jesus in all his states relived in the Eucharist. In this way, your adoration will be easier and more perfect, because it will cover all the Lord's mysteries. You will then come to praise, thanksgiving, reparation, and prayer, which are the four ends of the sacrifice.²

Like Mary, adore him within you, really and substantially present through Holy Communion, since you then possess his body, blood, soul, and divinity really and substantially. It is true that you hold him substantially only for a quarter of an hour. The Church, so good a mother for fervent souls whose love would want to receive Communion constantly so as to never be without Jesus, has given them permission to make spiritual communions as often as they want. In this way, it will be true to say that you are adoring like Mary. Offer yourself to Jesus through her. Give everything to our Lord, even your faults and [spiritual] poverty, for he accepts all of that. Nevertheless, if we had only that to offer, we might become sad and start shedding tears. But this offering, however poor it might be, will be acceptable and precious to our Lord when it is presented to him by his divine mother.

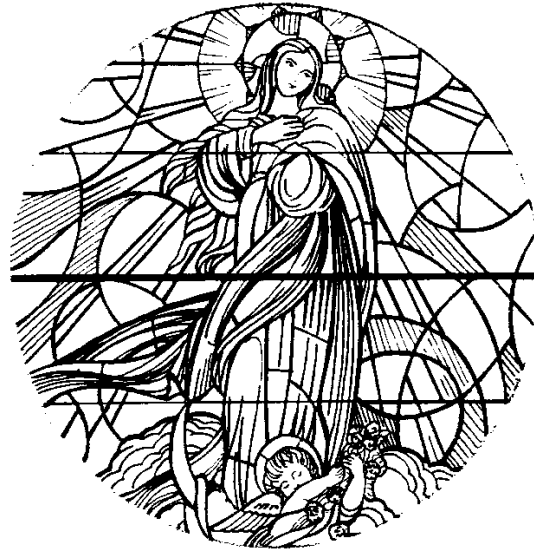
My Sisters, there is something that I hesitate to tell you, not knowing if I can explain it properly. I told you to adore our Lord in the most Blessed Sacrament with Mary. You may think this can be only an imaginative presence, since Mary is in heaven and not everywhere like our Lord. Should we then always imagine that she is near? My Sisters, if our Lord permitted several saints, such as St. Alphonse of Liguori, St. Francis Xavier, etc., to be in several places at the same time, if he permitted these saints to appear after their death while remaining in heaven, is it not proper to think that our Lord would do for his mother what he did for them, and that where the Eucharist is, the Blessed Virgin would also be there to adore him?

In this way you may adore with Mary, and she with you, whenever you are in adoration. This is a consoling and encouraging thought, for by yourselves, my poor Daughters, you amount to nothing. Since the Blessed Virgin prays and adores with you, she becomes your mother and teacher.

¹ Number 28. *Méditations sur l'adoration*.

² Note from the scribe: ("I had never thought of making adoration in this way; this idea came to me only today")

Surely our Lord can do this! And I say that he must. After he gave us his blessed mother on Calvary, would we no longer have her on earth? No, my Sisters, our Lord can do no less for his mother than he does for his saints. The Blessed Virgin appeared on earth in many places at the same time. Did she leave heaven to do this? No, my Sisters, since Mary participated in all the states of her divine Son, it is believable that she participates in his multi-location, so that wherever Jesus is, as some saint said, so is Mary.



Points for reflection:

This meditation follows the style of the French School of spirituality. Fr. Eymard invites us to discover all the states and mysteries of Jesus in the Eucharist, and to make them the subject of our meditations. Besides, he invites us to make this discovery in union with Mary. With words that reflect the past centuries (multi-location), he emphasizes the strong Marian presence near the Eucharist. What is your Marian experience in relation to the Eucharist?