

About Your Eucharistic Goal ¹

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Paris, Friday, July 16, 1858

My dear Daughters, bless God the Father, and give him perpetual thanksgiving for having chosen you and called you in his infinite mercy to the most beautiful and most holy of vocations, (cf. Eph 1:3-4) to the Eucharistic service of the adorable person of Jesus Christ in the most Holy Eucharist, under the loving title of Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, in union with the most Blessed Virgin of the Cenacle.

Understand before all else the excellence of this Eucharistic service, in order to acquire all its perfection. You are Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, and your principal work is perpetual adoration at the feet of God hidden in the Eucharist, in a spirit of love, and by the exercise of adoration, thanksgiving, supplication and reparation. This was Mary's life after the ascension of her divine Son. She spent the remainder of her days at the foot of the tabernacle, honoring the virtues of Jesus' sacramental state, and praying ceaselessly for his Eucharistic reign in souls.

By your vocation, my Sisters, you share the life of the angels. You become the court of the immolated Lamb. **You are his beloved family.** He has given you to his holy mother to form you in his divine service and to adorn you with her virtues. Jesus' divine mother is your superior; you replace her on earth. She will be your mother and make you perfect servants of Jesus, if you abandon yourself in mind and heart to her maternal direction.

Rejoice then, my Sisters, you could not have a more sublime vocation. The Eucharist is heaven. You will serve our Lord in the divine Eucharist as Mary served him on earth, *with all your mind, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.* (Mt 22:37) Your glory and happiness will be to serve him freely out of love. All will be subordinated to the Eucharistic service of Jesus – piety, virtues, and even religious perfection. You will evaluate everything, my Sisters, in its relation to a better service of the most Holy Eucharist.

The sovereign exercise of your vocation as Servants, my Daughters, is that of adoration. This is the eternal occupation of the heavenly court in which you are called to share successively day and night on earth, at the foot of the throne of love of Jesus Christ our savior. All your virtues, as well as all your actions, must be a preparation or a continuation of your hour of adoration. Fulfill this prayer in the name of the Church that has consecrated and dedicated you for this holy service to its divine spouse. Make it in the name of the Society which has delegated you before its king and God. Adore in union with the pure and fervent adorations of the most Blessed Virgin in the Cenacle. The victim of the sacrifice will be your entire self, for the greater glory of Jesus.

How must you make your adoration? For that, observe the following rules:

1. First of all, be very faithful to the hour assigned by holy obedience, and wait for that blessed hour, as love awaits and sighs for its beloved. Jesus waits for you and calls you to his throne of grace. This is your hour of audience, an hour of heaven for you.

¹ Number 50. *Les vœux. La règle. La charité.* [The vows. The Rule. Charity.]

2. Your exterior appearance should be suitable and decent. Entering the chapel, first prostrate on both knees, in order to render to God the homage of your body and soul by this profound witness of your faith and devotion, and then say the *Laudes*², etc.

3. During your adoration, take the position that is most conducive to your recollection. In the presence of the God of love, forget everything and all your worries, to see, hear, love and serve only Jesus the God of your heart.

4. Your hour of adoration should be consecrated exclusively to honoring our Lord in his adorable sacrament. Honor him according to your spiritual state and according to your attraction of grace. You may vary your exercises of adoration by meditating on the mysteries or virtues of Jesus' life continued admirably in the most Blessed Sacrament; as the poverty of his birth, his obedience, his hidden life in Nazareth, his zeal for souls, the love shown in his passion.

5. Celebrate all the feasts of the Church in the Holy Eucharist, that ever beautiful and holy feast. This is the grace and purpose of all the others, calling to mind the eternal feast of the angels and saints in heaven. Associate yourself to their praise, their thanksgiving, their eternal worship of the immolated lamb, seated on the throne of God his Father.

6. Celebrate also the feasts of God's grace and mercy for you before the Blessed Sacrament especially the anniversaries of your baptism, of your First Communion, of your Eucharistic vocation, etc. But the incense of prayer which is most pleasing to God in the Eucharist, the greatest love, the most perfect sacrifice, is the entire oblation and the absolute gift of your entire self to his love and his Eucharistic reign. Sacrifice to him all your natural repugnancies, your human affections, the anxious cares of life, of health, of the future, so as to abandon yourself entirely to the care of his divine providence and his good pleasure, wanting but one thing, to serve him by sovereign love.

7. Offer to Our Lord in the sacred Host the same respect and the same homage that he offers ceaselessly to his Father.

1. Adore God the Father through Jesus Christ your savior, obedient, humbled and annihilated in the Eucharist to confound human pride and exalt the glory of God. Adore Jesus Hostia as your savior and your God, with all your mind by an ardent faith, with all your heart by a pure and generous love, with all your will by the sacrifice of your liberty, with all your senses by respect and modesty. Adore the divine Host in union with the adorations of all who love him, of the great Eucharistic souls, of the entire Church, but especially with the adorations of the most Blessed Virgin your mother, the first and most perfect adorer.

2. Give thanks through Jesus Hostia to God the Father for having given him to you as your brother, your savior, and your bread of life. In union with the most Blessed Virgin, offer to Jesus perpetual thanksgiving for his divine goodness and his immense love in instituting the Eucharist until the end of time, and for giving you prodigious graces and blessings every day. Especially thank the Good Master for having called you to his Eucharistic service, which is for you the source of your greatest graces. Thank the God of goodness for

² *Laudes ac gratiae sint omni momento Sanctissimo ac divinissimo Sacramento.* O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

your parents, your friends, and for all those who don't thank him. Your adoration will then be a truly agreeable hymn of praise.

3. Offer Jesus to God the Father, for he is the savior perpetually immolated on the altar for the pardon and salvation of the world. Unite yourselves to his state of victim of propitiation, in order to become one single victim with Jesus crucified, to appease the righteous anger of God and obtain grace for sinners, even the most hardened. This is the sacrifice most agreeable to his heart, the greatest homage to his infinite mercy and love

Sigh and weep, my Sisters, because the evil is great, penetrating even into the sanctuary. Your God is offended even in the greatest gift of his love. Sinners take advantage of his silence to insult him, of his humility to show contempt, of his patience to offend him, of his goodness to dare to sell him to satisfy their passions, even to the devil, as another Judas. And this Good Master does not complain, seeks no revenge from his Father. He asks only mercy for his guilty children. He seeks some reconciling soul to enter between divine justice and sinners. He still offers himself as a victim, but he needs a soul to offer his blood, his sufferings, his merits and his death to God the Father, and in this way to achieve its effectiveness through penance and sacrifice.

4. My Sisters, you form an apostolic and perpetual mission of prayer before the throne of mercy. At the foot of the divine tabernacle you must forcefully combat the devil's efforts, the impiety of the world, in order to establish everywhere the Eucharistic reign of Jesus your God. Your Eucharistic prayer must embrace the entire world to convert it to Jesus Christ. Pray especially for the Church and its noble head, the Sovereign Pontiff, for France and those who govern it, the diocese, and the parish which welcomes you with charity, for the Society and all its general and particular intentions. Pray for the apostolic work of missionaries, for the blessed ministry of pastors of souls, in order to obtain holy priests for the Church. Pray for all Eucharistic souls so that they may correspond faithfully to their [...] vocation. In order for your prayer to be all-powerful, unite it to that of Mary, your good mother. Kneel beside her, pray with her, offer her piety and love. Her divine Son will answer you in his divine mother.

Let every Friday be especially consecrated to reparation [for offenses] against the most Blessed Sacrament. On that day, do some penance, according to your attractions of grace. [...]. You should, especially on that day, weep and remain with your mother at the feet of Jesus, the great victim of propitiation.



Points for reflection:

Hardly two weeks after the gathering of our first sisters, the first verses of the letter to the Ephesians were presented for reflection, where St. Peter Julian gave a description and definition of our vocation as Servants of the Most Blessed Sacrament. What are the principal points of that definition? How does it describe our relation to Mary?