

The Qualities of Eucharistic Service ¹

St. Peter Julian Eymard to the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament
Without date

How shall I serve Jesus in his loveable sacrament? With all my mind, with all my heart, with all my will, and with all my strength. (Mt? Mk 12:29)

1° **With all my mind.** The Holy Eucharist will be my dominant thought; his better service will be my ambition; his perpetual service will be my most glorious bond with him. I will be indifferent to whatever cannot be related to the service of the adorable Eucharist, because it is not my task, not my duty as a servant. I will consider as an exercise of Eucharistic service all that obedience requires, all that community life demands, and all that fraternal charity entails and desires. I no longer want any study or learning, except the study and learning of Jesus Eucharistic. The Holy Eucharist becomes my unique book, my habitual meditation, and my heavenly contemplation.

I must come to the point of thinking as easily and naturally about the Holy Eucharist as I do about myself, as about what I love naturally, as about what I strongly desire. The Holy Eucharist will then be for me the habitual exercise of the presence of God, the sun on my journey, my truth and all truth.

2° I will serve Jesus Eucharistic **with all my heart.** His service will be the goal of all my desires, all my pleasures, all my joys, and all my hopes. Jesus said: *Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be* (Mt 6:21). Yes, I want no other good than the Eucharist, no other glory, no other esteem, no other affection than that of Jesus Eucharistic. All I desire is that he love me; all I want is to love him uniquely and perfectly. It matters little to me if the world forgets me, despises me, persecutes me, providing I am with Jesus Eucharistic. Even if poverty strips me of everything, even if sickness crucifies me, the devil torments me, heaven tests me and seems to abandon me, I will not complain or worry. I will praise Jesus, my Host of love, and unite myself ever more closely to him. Everything may be taken away from me, except Jesus.

Indeed! As long as I can enter his church, occupy a small corner in his Cenacle, see the sacred Host on its throne, to adore, to love and to serve it – for me this is a kingdom and paradise itself. Everything that I have to do, to give, and to suffer to obtain this grace appears to me as small as a grain of sand, so great a favor for so little a price to receive such a gift. I will love Jesus uniquely, I will tell my joys and sufferings only to him, I will confide my desires and Eucharistic ambitions only to him, I will suffer only for him, and I want to live and die only for him; like the candle burning in front of him, being consumed in silence, but with a flame of love, to the glory of the hidden God.

3° I will serve Jesus **with all my will.** Without choosing, I will dispose myself to filial obedience in everything, without reservation. Besides, I will love all that obedience will say or show me, without preference other than that of humility, mortification, and the gentleness of Jesus. My entire life will be an adoration, but the desired moment, the royal and holy hour of adoration will be the mobilizing force, the motivation, the goal of all my desires, of all my joys, the time of the spouse's arrival, the hour of the Passover of Jesus, the hour of audience with his love. Like a thirsty deer, I will hasten to the spring of living water (cf. Ps 41:2). Like an angel summoned by God, I will hasten to his throne; like a child at the birthday of its father, I will bring a bouquet of love to my God.

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4° I will serve Jesus Eucharistic **with all my strength**. I will consecrate my senses to him, to honor him with respect and modesty, and to serve him in fraternal charity. I will consecrate to him my attire, as a humble and pure uniform for his service; my room, that it may stand out for its order and modesty, like a room in Nazareth and like the poverty and cleanliness of a room of His. I will consecrate my health to him, caring for it in order to serve him, sacrificing it willingly drop by drop, like a royal victim of love, consuming it joyfully in his service, like the lamp that burns before his tabernacle. As long as my body can bear another wound, an additional suffering for Jesus, as long as its slow and hidden sacrifice can endure, I will love it more than death, even more than the happiness of heaven, I will love it for the greater glory of Jesus, for his Eucharistic reign.

❖ **Reading: *Imitation*, Book 4, chapter 11**



Point for reflection:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your mind, with all your heart, with all your will, and with all your strength”. St. Peter Julian applies this text to our Eucharistic vocation. What challenges you the most?