# 33 DAYS to EUCHARISTIC GLORY

STUDY GUIDE

A Small Group Companion for **Your Spiritual** Journey

# 33 DAYS to EUCHARISTIC GLORY

STUDY GUIDE

The International Society of the Eucharist

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# INTRODUCTION

You are about to embark on an incredible journey. 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory isn't just another book. It is an invitation to participate in a sacred journey—a spiritual pilgrimage. It's a guide that will lead you to the essence of what it means to be Catholic...and it will change your life in the most marvelous of ways.

Eucharistic Consecration will take your spiritual life to unimaginable new levels, but it will also energize your relationships, refocus your professional life, rearrange your priorities, awaken your dreams, and show you the genius of Catholicism.

The key to unlocking these fruits in your life is surrender. Consecration is to devote yourself to God and make yourself 100 percent available to carry out His will on this earth. Through the act of consecration, we dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the will of God, surrender our distractions and selfishness, and promise to faithfully respond to God's grace in our lives.

Jesus in the Eucharist offers His entire self to you. This consecration journey will prepare your heart, mind and soul so that you are ready to offer your entire self back to Him.

This pilgrimage to Eucharistic Glory will require sacrifice, discipline and radical love. It is a blessing that you are not making this journey alone. The people of your small group will be your companions, and sharing this life-changing experience together will form a very special bond. Encourage and challenge one another to become all God created you to be. Help one another walk toward Eucharistic Glory—toward Heaven.

Thank you for your willingness to make this pilgrimage together and consecrate yourself to Jesus in the Eucharist. The renewal of the Catholic Church depends on people like you allowing Jesus to work through you in powerful new ways.

May the Eucharistic Glory of Jesus Christ find a home deep in your soul and remain with you forever,

# The International Society of the Eucharist Team

# STUDY GUIDE PURPOSE AND FORMAT

The purpose of this study guide is to: **(a)** help you dive into *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory* by exploring your personal relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist and how to apply what you are learning to your life as you prepare to make your consecration; and **(b)** build authentic community in your parish by facilitating discussion about the book's themes. This guide was written for small groups and book clubs, but can be used by individuals as well.

The study guide is broken into eight sessions. We recommend these sessions take place once a week in order to follow the weekly cadence of the book, but they can also be done once a month at the discretion of the group.

Each session follows the same format:

- Opening Prayer
- Discussion Questions
- Virtue Plan
- For Next Time
- Closing Prayer: Spiritual Communion

We recommend that a group session last from **sixty to ninety minutes**, but the content is flexible and can be adapted to fit your needs. It is assumed that participants will have completed the reading assignment before attending each session, except for the first session where there is no assigned reading.

# BEST PRACTICES

Never led a small group? Don't sweat it! Here are five tips for creating a great environment for small groups.

- Keep your meeting time and place consistent. Once a week, at a time convenient for all participants, in a location that has accessible parking is great.
- 2. Communicate in advance. Make sure everyone knows what the assigned reading is for the next session. If you're meeting at someone's house, let people know beforehand where they can park (e.g. in the driveway, at the curb, down the street).
- **3. Get to know each other.** Even if you have already been meeting for some time, it can be beneficial to begin your time together with a fun, lighthearted question. Starting sessions this way helps individuals get to know each other a little and feel more comfortable together. Here are some fun suggestions:
  - Which fictional character would you want to be your best friend?
  - What is your dream vacation?
  - If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?
  - What is your favorite, funniest, or most awkward childhood memory?
- **4. Allow room for silence.** It's okay if there are moments of quiet in the group. It may feel uncomfortable or awkward, but people need time to process or to summon the courage to speak up.
- **5. Begin and end with prayer.** Start every session with the opening prayer (found at the beginning of each section), and close each session with the closing prayer (found at the end of each session). You can also give people the opportunity to offer personal prayer intentions.

# READING SCHEDULE

# SESSION 1

No Assigned Reading

SESSION 2

Introduction: The Eucharist is the Answer

**SESSION 3** 

Week 1: The Eucharist and the Pilgrim

SESSION 4

Week 2: The Eucharist and the Saints

SESSION 5

Week 3: The Eucharist and You

SESSION 6

Week 4: The Eucharist and History

SESSION 7

The Final Days: The Moment of Surrender

**SESSION 8** 

**Appendix** 

# BEGINNING YOUR JOURNEY

# OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, I invite You into my life today and make myself available to You. Help me to prepare for the total surrender of consecration to You in the Eucharist. I believe that You are who You say You are, I believe that You are truly present in the Eucharist, and I believe that You long to feed my soul perfectly with Yourself. Help me to grow out of the doubts and unbelief that remain in my heart. Jesus, I believe. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen.

- 1. How would you rate your current relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist on a scale of 1-10? How are you hoping to increase that number through this consecration experience?
- 2. What areas of your life are you hoping will benefit the most from a consecration to Jesus in the Eucharist?
- 3. Describe the moment in your life when you first believed that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. Do you ever experience doubt that Jesus is truly there? What helps you to have faith in these moments of doubt?
- 4. What does consecration mean to you? What excites you most about preparing for that experience? What hesitations do you have?

# SESSION 1 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

Each day of 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory includes a specific virtue to adopt. For this first session, let's take the virtue of **HOPE**. Pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you will strive to grow in hope as you begin this journey.

#### **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read *Introduction: The Eucharist is the Answer*. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# THE EUCHARIST IS THE ANSWER

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, thank You for revealing Yourself to me, especially in the gift of the Eucharist. Thank You for all You have done for me. Thank You for loving me so much that You offered your Body and Blood on the Cross. Show me the deep meaning my life holds and inspire me to dream of bold possibilities for my life, my parish and the Church. Jesus, begin a revolution of love in my heart today. Please teach me to love myself as You love me, so that I can love all those who cross my path in a way that reminds them that You changed the world. Amen.

- 1. The introduction to *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory* is jam-packed with wisdom. What insight stuck out to you the most?
- 2. The book opens with the power of dreams. What are your dreams for this consecration? What dreams do you have for how it will change your life?
- 3. Recall this line from the introduction: "Consecration is to devote yourself to God and make yourself 100 percent available to carry out His will on this earth. It is an act of unconditional surrender to God." How available are you to God right now in your life? Give yourself a percentage score. What's keeping that percentage from being higher?
- 4. What's the most powerful experience you've ever had with the Eucharist? Why do you think those who believe Jesus is truly present there never leave the Church?
- 5. One of the calls to action in the introduction is to be a Eucharistic Missionary by sharing this consecration with others. Who are three people in your life that you could share the book with and invite to take this journey?

# SESSION 2 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

Each day of 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory includes a specific virtue to adopt. For the introduction session, let's take the virtue of **DREAMING**. Pair up with a partner and discuss three dreams you have for this consecration journey and your life.

# **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read Week One: The Eucharist and the Pilgrim. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

# **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# THE EUCHARIST AND THE PILGRIM

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, please remind me that all of life is a sacred pilgrimage. Help me to resist the temptation to live like a tourist, and instill in me the heart and mind and soul of a pilgrim. Give me the clarity to see that my great destiny is to return to You in Heaven and the determination to reach that ultimate destination. Help me to see the possibilities that are born when I just keep showing up to encounter You in the Eucharist so that You can work in me and through me. Amen.

- 1. Describe the difference between a tourist mindset and a pilgrim mindset in your own words. Where in your life do you need to make a shift from living like a tourist to living like a pilgrim?
- 2. The reality of death brings clarity to our lives. If you knew you would die five years from today, what is it that you would make sure you did over the next five years? What would you be more dedicated to?
- 3. What do you approach in life with the most determination? How would your life be different if you pursued Heaven that way?
- 4. Let's talk about the six seismic shifts of the spiritual life. They are: Begin the Conversation, Ask God What He Wants, Give Yourself to Prayer, Transform Everything into Prayer, Make Yourself Available and Just Keep Showing Up. Does one of these resonate with you more than the others? Which seismic shift do you most need in your life right now?
- 5. What is the best advice you have ever received on your spiritual journey? How has it impacted your relationship with God?

# SESSION 3 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

The virtues of this week are: **PATIENCE**, **JOY**, **FAITH**, **DETERMINATION**, **DISCIPLINE**, **SURRENDER**, and **PERSEVERANCE**. Pick one of these virtues that you most want to grow in. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action before the next session.

# **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read Week Two: The Eucharist and the Saints. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

# **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# THE EUCHARIST AND THE SAINTS

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change so that I can carry out the mission You have imagined for my life. Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging. Show me how best to get involved in the life of my parish. Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning, and help us to realize that we each have a role to play in making our community a perfect place for imperfect people trying to walk with You. Amen.

- 1. This week covered seven incredible saints: Mother Teresa, John Paul II, Maximilian Kolbe, Thérèse of Lisieux, Thomas Aquinas, Sister Faustina, and Mary, the Mother of God. Which of the saint's stories or relationship with the Eucharist resonated with you most? What did you learn from them?
- 2. Our lives change when our habits change. What spiritual habits are in place in your life right now? What spiritual habits would you most like to implement?
- 3. There is a vast difference between knowing about God and knowing God. How well do you know Jesus as a person? What is one thing you learned this week that you will use to grow closer to Jesus?
- 4. There is no love without sacrifice. Which relationship in your life have you poured the most sacrifices into? How has that relationship grown over time? How is God moving in that relationship?
- 5. Each time you receive the Eucharist, you become a living tabernacle holding Jesus. What does this mean to you? How could this one idea change the way you live your faith and your life?

# SESSION 4 (CONTINUED)

# VIRTUE PLAN

The virtues of this week are: **CONSISTENCY, ATTENTIVENESS, SPIRITUAL AWARENESS, SACRIFICE, WISDOM, MERCY** and **HUMILITY.** Pick one of these virtues that you most want to grow in. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action before the next session.

# **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read Week Three: The Eucharist and You. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

# **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# THE EUCHARIST AND YOU

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, take the blindness away from my eyes so that I can see people, situations, and myself as You do. Open my heart so that Your radical love can rearrange my priorities. Stir my soul so that I may cherish each Mass as if it is my first Mass, my last Mass, my only Mass. Teach me to value Your model of sacrifice and love, and give me a desire for You above all other things. Amen.

- 1. This week of the journey focused on how Jesus in the Eucharist wants to help you meet the deepest needs of your soul so that you can flourish. What was one lesson that you took away and want to apply to your life?
- 2. Rest is a divine activity. You have an essential need for rest. How restful are your Sundays? What are some ways you can establish a more authentic and soul-feeding Sabbath experience?
- 3. What aspect of your life do you need Jesus to heal right now? Is there anything preventing you from surrendering it to Him?
- 4. Here is a short list of some of the fruits and gifts that flow into your soul each time you receive the Eucharist: Friendship with Jesus; Desire to know and do the will of God; Cleansing of venial sin; Hunger for virtue; Grace to avoid sin in the future; A heart that listens to the Holy Spirit; Desire to know and love God. Which of these fruits do you most want Jesus to give you at this time in your life? How could asking for it change your life?
- 5. Love rearranges our priorities. How are your priorities shifting as you journey through this thirty-three-day consecration? What's more important to you than it was when you began? What's less important?

# SESSION 5 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

The virtues of this week are: **REST, TRUST, KINDNESS, RECEPTIVITY, PREPAREDNESS, LOVE** and **DEVOTION**. Pick one of these virtues that you most want to grow in. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action before the next session.

# **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read Week Four: The Eucharist and History. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

# **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# THE EUCHARIST AND HISTORY

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, King of the Universe, thank You for all the ways you bless me, those I am aware of and all those I am still oblivious to. The Scriptures show me that from the beginning You have desired friendship with humanity. Help me to know and believe that just as You yearned for friendship with Adam and Eve; Abraham, Moses, Peter, and Paul; Ruth, Esther, Rachel, and Mary; You desire a powerful friendship with me. Give me the wisdom to make the Eucharist a priority in my life so together we can foster a beautiful friendship. Amen.

- Nearly 70% of Catholics don't believe in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Why do you think this teaching is still so difficult to accept?
   What might be keeping you from more fully embracing this difficult teaching?
- 2. God speaks to us in our hunger. He uses our hunger to teach us and guide us. What are you hungry for right now? What is God saying to you through your hunger? How is He using that hunger to lead you to Him?
- 3. Jesus spent His last night on Earth instituting the Eucharist. If you knew you only had one night left to live, what would you do tonight? Would the Eucharist be part of your plan?
- 4. The early Christians weren't perfect, but they rigorously sought the best way to live the Christian life. In what ways are you rigorously seeking to live the Christian life? In what ways have you stopped seeking the best way?
- 5. More than 50 percent of the joy in any great venture in life comes from anticipation. How do you prepare for Mass? What are some ways that you could intentionally build your anticipation for going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist?
- 6. What is the most beautiful church you've ever stepped foot in? How did it feel to be there?

# SESSION 6 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN:**

The virtues of this week are: **COURAGE, GRATITUDE, FAITHFULNESS, AWE, HOPE, FORTITUDE** and **SINCERITY**. Pick one of these virtues that you most want to grow in. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action before the next session.

# FOR NEXT TIME:

Read *The Final Days: The Moment of Surrender*. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

\*Important Note: The next section of reading concludes with the Prayer of Eucharistic Consecration on Day 33. We recommend scheduling your next group session to align with Day 33 of your journey so that you can all come together to make your consecration. Review the special note before Session 7 for more details.

#### **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# SPECIAL NOTE FOR CONSECRATION DAY PLANNING

You're almost to the finish line! As you approach the end of this journey, it's important to think about what you'd like your consecration day to look like as a group.

We recommend scheduling Session 7 to align with Day 33 of your journey so that you can all be together on the day of your consecration to Jesus in the Eucharist. You may also choose to do the consecration individually outside of the group setting, but finishing this journey with your companions will be incredibly powerful.

Should your group decide to do the consecration together at the conclusion of Session 7, in lieu of the Spiritual Communion you can end with the Prayer of Eucharistic Consecration.

**Consecration is a powerful and intimate moment.** Each person will want to take it at their own pace. To that end, we recommend that you leave ample time after your discussion for each member of your group to pray the Prayer of Eucharistic Consecration on their own. Then you can all regroup and celebrate together!

In order to make the moment of consecration as meaningful as possible, here are a few different suggestions for planning the big day:

- Plan to attend Mass together after Session 7 and have each individual make the Prayer of Consecration privately in the quiet moments after receiving the Eucharist.
- Plan to attend Eucharistic Adoration together after Session 7 and have each individual make the Prayer of Consecration privately in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Plan to have Session 7 at a church during a quiet time and have each individual make the Prayer of Consecration privately before the tabernacle.

We hope your consecration day is a day you cherish for the rest of your lives!

# THE MOMENT OF SURRENDER

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Jesus, Here I am. I trust that You have an incredible plan for me. Transform me. Transform my life. Everything is on the table. Take what You want to take and give what You want to give. Transform me into the person You created me to be, so I can live the life You envision for me. I hold nothing back; I am 100 percent available. How can I help? Amen.

- 1. What is your favorite Holy Moment story? When was a time that you created, received or witnessed a powerful Holy Moment?
- 2. Do you believe that holiness is possible for you? What's preventing you from embracing the possibility of holiness in your life? How does the idea of Holy Moments help you believe that holiness is possible for you?
- 3. What virtue do you want to be known for when you die? How would making that virtue a part of your legacy change the rest of your life?
- 4. Do you view obedience to God as a restriction or as a life-giving path to flourishing? Where is your desire to direct your own actions getting in the way of doing God's will?
- 5. This consecration is a radical act of love. You are offering your whole self to Jesus in the Eucharist. What are you still holding back from Him? What part of your life do you most need to surrender to Jesus?

# SESSION 7 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

The virtues of this week are: **ENTHUSIASM, SIMPLICITY, GENEROSITY,** and **OBEDIENCE**. Pick one of these virtues that you most want to grow in. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action before the next session.

# **FOR NEXT TIME**

Read the Appendix to 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory. What stands out to you? Highlight or make note of the ideas that most resonate with you.

# **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Option 1:** If your group is making the consecration while gathered together, pray the Prayer of Eucharistic Consecration found on page 207 of *33 Days* to Eucharistic Glory.

**Option 2:** If you are each making the consecration individually outside the group meeting, pray the Spiritual Communion.

# LIVING YOUR CONSECRATION

# **OPENING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, I consecrate myself to You today without reservation. Transform me. Transform my life. I trust in the eternal genius of Your ways. I make myself 100 percent available to You. Lead me, encourage me, challenge me. Show me how I can collaborate with You, and I will do what You ask with a joyful heart. Amen.

- 1. You are now consecrated to Jesus in the Eucharist! Congratulations! What was your experience of consecration like? What are you most grateful for from the experience?
- 2. Now that you are consecrated to Jesus in the Eucharist, how will you live as a Eucharistic Missionary? What will you do to share this consecration—and the fruit it bears—with others?
- 3. Many people make a commitment to renew their consecration on a regular basis. John Paul II renewed his consecration to Mary every morning. Others renew their commitment annually on the date of their consecration. What is possible for you?
- 4. How will you keep this consecration alive in your heart, mind and soul? What spiritual practices and routines (Adoration, daily Mass, fasting, giving, Spiritual Communion, etc.) would you like to implement to honor your consecration? In what ways will you serve your parish community?
- 5. What is one lesson from this entire journey that you never want to forget and hope to carry with you for the rest of your life?

# SESSION 8 (CONTINUED)

# **VIRTUE PLAN**

Pick one virtue from this entire journey that you most want to grow in right now. Then pair up with a partner and discuss three ways you plan to put this virtue into action going forward so that you can live your consecration to the fullest.

# **CLOSING PRAYER: SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

# CONSECRATE AMERICA TO THE EUCHARIST

# We dream of consecrating the whole world to the Eucharist.

One person at a time, one marriage at a time, one family at a time, one neighborhood at a time, one parish at a time, one diocese at a time, one country at a time.

# Imagine the whole world consecrated to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Join us in this dream and together we can do something bold for God. Sign the petition to consecrate America to the Eucharist today at **Eucharist.us** 



Scan the QR to learn more.

# BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MISSIONARY

Would you like to help us coordinate our efforts in your community? Are you interested in leading small groups through *33 Days to Eucharistic Glory*? Would you like to learn more about our neighborhood evangelization? Would you like to help consecrate your parish and diocese to the Eucharist?

Consider joining one of the most passionate groups of Catholics in the world by becoming a Eucharistic Missionary. You don't need to travel to foreign lands to become a missionary, your missionary efforts are needed right here at home.

We would love to partner with you. To learn more, visit **Eucharist.us** 



Scan the QR to learn more.

# The International Society of the Eucharist

For more information, please visit: www.eucharist.us