



MARYTOWN

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION APOSTOLATE

NEWSLETTER

1600 West Park Ave. Libertyville IL, 60048

Apostolate Office: 847.367.7800 x 235

www.kolbeshrine.org

Spiritual Director: Fr. Lawrence Zurek, OFM Conv.

Volume 28

Summer, 2026

Number 3

St. Thomas Aquinas and the Eucharist

By: John Delaney, S.S.S.

St. Thomas Aquinas

Saint Thomas Aquinas died in 1274 on his way to a Council in France. He was a big man in many ways, a great genius whose theology has great influence in the Church...

For him, the Eucharist was a **summit** because all the other sacraments are geared to it and because it consummates the spiritual life. The Eucharist is more perfect, since it contains “the Author of Grace himself,” a constant theme in Saint Thomas.

Union with Christ in the Warmth of His Love

“Through this sacrament a person is joined to Christ through faith and charity (love) ... The effect of the sacrament is not only to communicate habitual grace (i.e., sanctifying grace) and charity, but also to nourish the person with a real spiritual sweetness.” The word “sweetness” may grate on our modern sensitivities. If we were to use instead such words as “peace of soul,” “spiritual consolation,” “serene and vibrant

peace,” we would not be far from the idea that Thomas is communicating through the Latin word for “sweetness.” Communion brings “an increase of grace and of love” if we are properly disposed. It nourishes us and therefore increases “the fervor of our charity” and instills “the divine peace” into our whole personality. It helps us to experience within ourselves the “sweetness of the divine goodness.” In short, “the Eucharist, is called the sacrament of charity, which is the bond of perfection” because “it was directly instituted to nourish us spiritually through **union with Christ**.”

The Grace of This Sacrament is the Unity of the Church.

Frequently, we read that statement in Saint Thomas when he writes about the Eucharist. The Eucharistic Christ is a magnet by which his followers are drawn ever more closely to one another in a real love. This sacrament is the greatest means of bringing about what Christ himself asked for at the first Mass: “Love one another as I have loved you.” We have heard much of this particular effect of the Eucharist since Vatican II. The Council and the Popes have consistently stressed the Eucharist as the source of unity and peace.

Saint Thomas loved to say that the “grace of this sacrament is the grace and unity of the Mystical

St. Thomas Aquinas and the Eucharist

Body of Christ,” and he has a rather quaint argument for emphasizing it. We may ignore the argument for what it is worth, but the underlying truth—the Eucharist is the unity of the Church—is a matter of divine faith. “The Church is constituted from the many faithful, just as the one bread is composed of many particles and just as the one wine flows from many grapes.... As the species themselves indicate, this sacrament of fidelity is the **sign of unity** and the **bond of love**.”

I personally prefer Saint Paul’s argument from his First Letter to the Corinthians: “The cup of blessing for which we give thanks to God: do we not share in the Blood of Christ when we drink from this cup? And the bread we break: do we not share in the Body of Christ when we eat this bread? **Because there is the one bread, all of us, though many, are one body; for we all share the same loaf**” (10: 16-17). The one loaf is Christ, as the quotation makes clear. Christ is both the creator and the focal point of the deep unity which must exist between his followers. He achieves it through the celebration of the Eucharist if we ourselves take a full and active part in his mystery.

Other Effects of the Eucharist

Saint Thomas mentions many other effects of the Eucharist, but they all hinge on the two great effects just outlined above.

The Eucharist “prefigures the beatific enjoyment of God which is to be ours in heaven; for this reason it is called Viaticum.” Every Communion is a viaticum, a food for our journey, although the name is usually given to our last Communion on earth as we go to meet God. Thomas sees the Eucharist as a pledge of our future glory (John 6), because the sacrament contains the risen Christ himself and because the redeeming passion and

death of Christ are present to us in every Mass.

The Eucharist remits venial sin, since it promotes in a person the “fervor of charity.” It does not remit mortal sin, for which the sacrament of Penance is necessary, since a person approaching the Eucharist in mortal sin is putting an obstacle in the way of the Sacrament of Love and union with Christ.

Communion preserves from future mortal sin in the sense that it brings with it a strong power of charity. By strengthening the will, Christ confirms a person in his leaning toward the good and helps him to act more responsibly and more enthusiastically for what is right. Communion does not remove the **possibility** of future mortal sin. But in strengthening the will. Communion does make that possibility far more remote in the case of a fervent communicant. It is for this reason, among others, that Saint Thomas, long before Pius X, urged daily Communion.

Saint Thomas does not say anything essentially new about the Eucharist. It is more accurate to say that, having meditated deeply on the Word of God in the Scriptures and having listened to the many generations of faith that went before him, he presented in a clear way the basic teaching of the Church on this Mystery. He has not said everything. We have a richer view of the Eucharist today than he had, because there have been seven centuries of living belief since and a great Council in our own time. But limited though some of Thomas’s statements are, his teaching, as outlined above, is still as vital and relevant as it ever was, for it belongs to the permanent faith of the Church.

Source: Marytown Eucharistic Newsletter, October, 1980

INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

Reason for Bishop Sheen Promoting Holy Hour

Do we believe that Jesus is really and truly present?

A couple of months before his death Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was interviewed on national television. One of the questions was this:

“Bishop Sheen, you have inspired millions of people all over the world. Who inspired you? Was it a Pope?”

“Bishop Sheen responded that it was not a Pope, a Cardinal, another Bishop, or even a priest or a nun. It was a little Chinese girl of eleven years of age. He explained that when the Communists took over China, they imprisoned a priest in his own rectory near the Church. After they locked him up in his own house, the priest was horrified to look out of his window and see the Communists proceed into the Church, where they went into the sanctuary and broke into the tabernacle. In an act of hateful desecration, they took the ciborium and threw it on the floor with all of the Sacred Hosts spilling out. The priest knew exactly how many Hosts were in the ciborium: thirty-two.

When the Communists left, they either did not notice, or didn’t pay any attention to a small girl praying in the back of the Church who saw everything that had happened. That night the little girl came back. Slipping past the guard at the priest’s house, she went inside the Church.

There she made a holy hour of prayer, an act of love to make up for the act of hatred. After her holy hour she went into the sanctuary knelt down, bent over and with her tongue received Jesus in Holy Communion,

since it was not permissible at that time for laymen to touch the Sacred Host with their hands.

The little girl continued to come back each night to make her holy hour and receive Jesus in Holy Communion on her tongue. On the thirty-second night, after she had consumed the last and thirty-second host, she accidentally made a noise and woke the guard who was sleeping. He ran after her, caught her, and beat her to death with the butt of his rifle. This act of heroic martyrdom was witnessed by the priest as he watched grief-stricken from his bedroom window.

When Bishop Sheen heard the story, he was so inspired that he promised God he would make a holy hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament everyday of his life. If this frail, little child could give testimony and witness to the world concerning the real and wonderful Presence of her Savior in the Blessed Sacrament, then the Bishop was absolutely bound by all that was right and true, to do the same. His sole desire from then on was to bring the world to the Burning Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The little girl showed the Bishop what true courage and zeal really is; how faith could overcome all fear; how true love for Jesus in the Eucharist must transcend life itself. What is hidden in the Sacred Host is the glory of His love. The sun in the sky is symbolic of the Son of God in the Blessed Sacrament. This is why most monstrosities are in the form of a sunburst. As the sun is the natural source of all energy, the Blessed Sacrament is the supernatural source of all grace and love.

The Blessed Sacrament is JESUS, the light of the world.

Excerpt from an article “Let the SON shine out” by Rev. Martin Lucia

In Perpetual Adoration of the Holy Eucharist Since June 7, 1928

“The time during which Jesus abides in us under the sacramental species is the most precious of the entire day...the soul then becomes a living tabernacle, indeed something even more. At that time the soul of Jesus unites itself with our soul and becomes the soul of our soul. We cannot understand all this but can only perceive the effects.”

(St. Maximillian Kolbe)



“The streets and places of entertainment are filled with people; the House of God is deserted. Men flee from it; they are afraid of it. Ah! Poor Jesus! Did you expect so much indifference from those You have redeemed, from Your friends, from Your children, from me?”

(St. Peter Julian Eymard)

Monstrance at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Marytown, IL

Jubilee Year of St. Francis Prayer

Pope Leo XIV has announced that 2026 is a Jubilee Year of St. Francis, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. The Holy Father has offered this prayer for the occasion:

Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2026



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been celebrated since the sixth century and under various names. A doctrine beginning in the Eastern Church, the Western Church also adopted the feast in the 13th century. The Assumption was a common belief in the Church when Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin to be a dogma of faith on November 1, 1950. Although not mentioned in Scripture, on that day, Pope Pius declared the Assumption as “divinely revealed dogma”.

Daily Prayer for Family Unity

We pray through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Families, to help us strive to live peacefully with one another regardless of our differences. Help us count our blessings rather than dwell on our problems. You know our desires, and you will fulfill them according to your will. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen

Memorare

Acuérdate, Oh piadosísima Virgen María que jamás se oyó decir que hayas abandonado a ninguno de cuantos han acudido a tu amparo implorando tu protección y reclamando tu auxilio. Animado con esta confianza, también yo acudo a ti Virgen de las vírgenes, y gimiendo bajo el peso de mis pecados me atrevo a comparecer ante tu soberana presencia. No deseches mis súplicas, Madre del Verbo divino, antes bien óyelas y acógelas benigneamente. Amén

MARYTOWN

Upcoming Events

January 10, 2026-January 10, 2027

Jubilee Year of St. Francis

July 16, 2026

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

August 1, 2026

Militia of the Immaculata Preparation Class

August 14, 2026

St. Maximilian Kolbe

August 15, 2026

Marian Kolbe Conference; Dedication of new Kolbe Sculpture

August 15, 2026

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

August 22, 2026

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 8, 2026

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 12, 2026

The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

September 15, 2026

Our Lady of Sorrows

September 22-25, 2026

Pilgrimage for Beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Check the Bulletin or the www.kolbeshrine.org website for more details about upcoming events.

And Do Not Forget—Leaving Town?

It is the obligation of Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation --even when traveling. Call in advance to your destination to find Mass times, or search for Mass times by visiting: www.masstimes.org

Jubilee Year of St. Francis

By decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary issued January 10, 2026, at the behest of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, the Church has proclaimed a special Year of St. Francis, from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027, on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the passage of St. Francis of Assisi into Heaven. This decree grants, throughout the entire period, the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions:

-Sacramental Confession

-Eucharistic Communion

-Prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father, with a heart detached from sin

The faithful only need to make a pilgrimage to a Franciscan church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis, take part in the Jubilee rites or pause in prayer and meditation, and conclude with the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis, St. Clare, and Saints of the Franciscan Family.

KOLBE CORNER

We offer fraternal encouragement and spiritual support to those who suffer with chronic or long-term conditions through the intercession of St Maximilian Kolbe, founder of the *Militia Immaculatae* and patron of Marytown.



BR. MARTIN SCHMITZ, OFM CONV.,
FR. STEVE MCKINLEY, OFM CONV.,

LYLE NEMZIN,

DONNA KRZYZANOWSKI

WELLY MADINAVEITIA, OFS,

SUSAN TOURTELOT,

DICK SCHULTZ

Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

Become a Committed Adorer

Have you become a committed Eucharistic adorer yet? Experience what millions have experienced over the ages--the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. By making a commitment for one hour a week, you join over 260 committed adorers at Marytown who contribute to keeping the Perpetual Adoration Apostolate in existence at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We are in real need of adorers, especially for the overnight and afternoon hours.

In the vestibule of the chapel, simply fill out a commitment card for any hour you prefer, or call the Adoration Office at 847-367-7800, ext. 235. Also, you can commit online at: www.kolbeshrine.org

A member of the Adoration Apostolate will contact you.

Marian Kolbe Conference

This year, Joshua Mazrin will be the Guest Speaker at the Marian Kolbe Conference to be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026. Mr. Mazrin holds theology degrees from Franciscan University of Steubenville and completed doctoral coursework at Ave Maria University.

After founding an apostolate in New York City and serving as Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Venice, Florida, he now works in real estate development while continuing his theological mission as an editor, author, and curriculum writer.

Also, the dedication of the new Kolbe Sculpture will occur on this day. Registration can be made online, or by mail with attention to the Marytown Retreat Center. A registration form can be found in the weekly bulletin. Please consider attending this year's conference.

Welcome Adorers

In the past 3 months, the following have made a commitment, or are returning adorers:

Blanca Avalos, Jason Cartwright, Rosario Garcia, Leticia Medina,
Oscar Noriega, Karen Schwan

— May our Eucharistic Lord bless and reward you! —

As of 6/30/26, Adoration Hours Needing Another Committed Adorer; Hours with No Adorers in Bold

Sun: 1am, 4am, 7am, 10am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm,
4 pm, 11pm

Mon: 1am, 2am, 6am, 7am, 2pm, 4pm, 5pm, 10pm

Tue: 5 am, 6am, 8am, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm

Wed: 1am, 2am, 3am, 6am, 10am, 3pm, 5pm

Thu: 3am, 7am

Fri: 1am, 2am, 3am, 5am, 7am, 3pm

Sat: 4am, 5am, 11am, **4pm**

Our goal is to have 2 adorers for every hour. The current listing of hours in need of adorers are listed on the chart in the vestibule of the Chapel. Committed adorers may want to consider signing up for an additional hour.

Committed Adorers Who Ask For Our Prayers

Robert Hill, Ray Roman

Adorer's Immediate Family:

Lupita Ballesteros

We continue our prayers for past, and present, family and adorers. Another means of prayer is by entering petitions in the "Petition Book" in the rear of the Chapel.

Do You Have an Inspirational Story?

Do you have an inspirational story to share of how Eucharistic Adoration has affected you in your life? If so, we invite you to share your story with fellow adorers. Please contact the Adoration Office (847-367-7800, ext. 235) to submit your witness for publication

Condolences for Committed Adorers and Immediate Family Members

We keep all of our deceased Committed Adorers and Immediate Family Members in our prayers:

+ Louise Mullaley (April 24, 2026)

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

MARYTOWN Ministry of Care

Committed adorers may request prayers for themselves and/or immediate family members. Also, recently deceased immediate family members can be listed in the "Condolences" section above. The deceased will be remembered during the month of November. For more details, please call the Adoration Office at 847-367-7800, ext. 235, or contact your hourly Captain.