



Reinvigorate Worship

After his Resurrection, Jesus approaches two despairing disciples on the road to Emmaus. After encountering them, he reminds them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke!” (Lk 24:25). Then, he interprets the Scriptures, explaining to them how the Prophets had foretold the Messiah’s suffering and how it would lead to him entering into glory. Their hearts burned within them while he spoke, but they did not recognize him until “he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them” (Lk 24:30).

For us, too, the Eucharist makes us capable of seeing and believing in our Resurrected Lord (cf. *Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 7). Through the Liturgy, we are guaranteed an encounter with Jesus. “Christian faith is either an encounter with him alive, or it does not exist” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 10). Thus, “we have become sharers of God’s inmost life” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, no. 8) invited into the “perfect communion of love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (ibid.).

All members of the Church—ordained ministers and the faithful—enter into and should be formed by the Liturgy. “We are required every day to rediscover the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 21). “Efforts must also be made to encourage a sense of community within the parish, above all in the common celebration of the Sunday Mass” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 42). The beauty of the Liturgy should engender in us wonder, which leads us to adoration.



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INVITATION #1

Attentiveness to the *Ars Celebrandi*

The efforts to reinvigorate worship must take place on an individual level and on a communal level.

Priests, especially pastors, have a unique role to play in reinvigorating worship. In this Year of Parish Revival, we invite and encourage all our faithful priests to a renewed, careful attention to the *ars celebrandi* (the art of celebrating). This ensures that “the Paschal Mystery is made present so that the baptized, through their participation can experience it in their own lives” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, no. 49). This requires:

- ◆ Fidelity to the texts and rubrics of the Church
- ◆ Prayerful understanding of the liturgical texts, feasts, and seasons throughout the year
- ◆ A reverent sense that the minister and assembly are ordered in such a way that they “may draw from it more abundantly those fruits” for which Christ instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 16)
- ◆ Proper preparation for celebrating the liturgy

INSPIRING EXAMPLES



In the [Archdiocese of Philadelphia](#), workshops with the Office of Divine Worship are being offered to parishes to reintroduce *ars celebrandi* alongside new offerings of Eucharistic adoration and 40 Hours Devotion.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

- ◆ Encourage a renewed reverence for liturgical silence
- ◆ Invite parishioners to consider daily Mass attendance
- ◆ Host a catechetical formation series on the Eucharist
- ◆ Provide confession before the celebration of Holy Mass
- ◆ Encourage the sharing of witness stories about powerful experiences of the Holy Mass



Similarly, the [Diocese of Burlington](#), will promulgate “updated sacramental and liturgical guidelines” to be implemented in parishes. Furthermore, parishes will be encouraged to pray and think deeply about how Mass is being celebrated and what could be further enhanced, so as to revere the beauty and mystery of what is being celebrated—the Eucharist.