

## The Overflowing Graces of The Eucharist

Just prior to His Ascension, Jesus commissioned the Apostles and all who wished to be called His disciples to do two things—proclaim the Good News and heal the sick. Proclamation and Healing—this is the mission of the Church!

The Afterglow of Eucharistic Ministry is directly aligned with this mission of Jesus and His Church. The healing power of the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our faith, forms the rationale for this ministry. The “Prayer of Presence” ministry helps



people realize that there is indeed a continuous effect of each Eucharist we receive. Through this prayer, we invite others into an intimate relationship with Jesus, allowing Jesus to Proclaim the Kingdom of His Father to them and heal them in the way they most need healing.

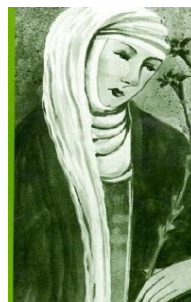
The *Prayer of Presence* helps each person focus on Jesus’ presence in their lives, making them more aware of the daily graces that flow into their lives from every Eucharist they receive. The goal of the *Prayer of Presence* is to lead others into a deeper awareness of and personal relationship with Jesus.

There is no time limit to experiencing the graces of each Eucharist we receive. Whether it is after Mass, during our visit to the homebound, hospitalized, or those in nursing care, when we pray with those in need over the phone, or even when we are in a formal parish meeting or casual encounter, we can invite people to pray the *Prayer of Presence* and invite them to experience the continuous graces of their Holy Communion through the power of Holy Spirit.

## The Imprint of the Eucharist on Our Souls

After we receive Eucharist, we spend time adoring Jesus and speaking to Him from our hearts. Shortly after receiving Jesus, we are dismissed from Mass and go about our day. Our intimate communion with Christ appears to end but actually this is not the case. As God the Father tells St. Catherine of Siena, Mystic and Doctor of the Church, there is no time limit on the effects of the graces imparted to us each time we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. How do we know this? Let’s listen in to the Father’s words to Catherine:

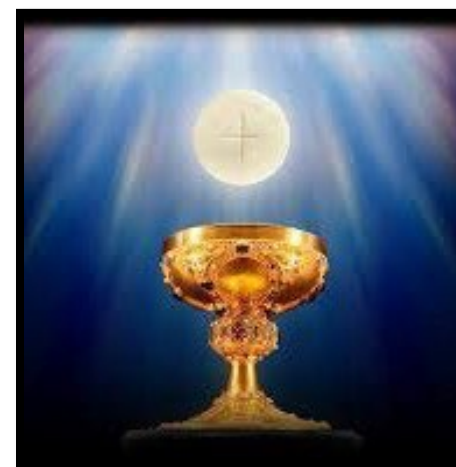
*Dearest daughter, contemplate the marvelous state of the soul who receives this bread of life, this food of angels.... When she [the soul] receives this sacrament, she lives in me....When this appearance of bread has been consumed, I leave behind the imprint of my grace, just as the seal that is pressed into warm wax leaves its imprint when it is lifted off. Thus, does the power of this sacrament remain there in the soul; that is, the warmth of my divine charity, the mercy of the Holy Spirit, remains there. The light of my only begotten Son's wisdom remains there, enlightening the mind's eye. The soul is left strong in sharing my strength and power which makes her strong and powerful....So you see, the imprint remains once the seal is lifted off. In other words, once the material appearances of the bread have been consumed, [the Son remains](The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena, #112).*



With this reality, why should we not “Stay with Jesus” a while longer? We can stay a few minutes after Mass ends or we can stay a few minutes with our homebound, nursing home, hospitalized brothers and sisters and pray with them for “what they want and need Jesus to do for them” or we can also pray with people over the phone, allowing the graces of the Eucharist to continue to bring God’s healing love and mercy into their daily lives.

## Parish Renewal Workshop Series

### THE AFTERGLOW OF THE EUCHARIST and the *Prayer of Presence*



*A Parish Ministry of  
Proclamation and Healing  
For Missionary Disciples*

*Approved by  
Bishop Frank J. Dewane  
Diocese of Venice in Florida*

**Outreach to Disciples on Mission  
Diocese of Venice**

**English Catholic Charismatic Renewal  
www.dvccr.org**

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## The Power of Prayer

“What do you want me to do for you?”

Jesus calls to us and wants us to tell Him what we need Him to heal in us. How do we know this? Read the Gospel stories of the two blind men and Bartimaeus where Jesus says, “What do you want me to do for you?” (Matthew 20:29; Mark 10:46; Luke 18:35; Matthew 9:27) . Jesus modeled this for us. He wants us to ask and even more, He tells us to ask.



**Ask in My Name and  
it shall be done for you!**

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you.  
Jn 15: 7; Jn 14: 13; Jn 16: 23

### Persevere in Prayer - Pray Always

Ask and you shall receive...how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him. If you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you (.Lk 18:1; Lk 11:13; Mk 11:24).

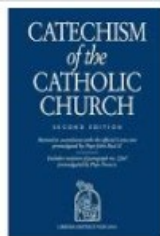
### The Catechism of the Catholic Church

1112 The mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy of the Church is...to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church.

1128 ...the fruits of the sacraments also depend on the disposition of the one who received them.

1999 The grace of Christ [that flows from the Eucharist] is the gift that God makes to us.

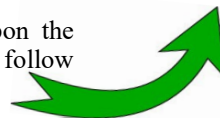
1671 Every baptized person is called to be a ‘blessing,’ and to bless. Hence lay people may preside at certain blessings;



## The Afterglow of the Eucharist A Missionary Disciple Initiative

### Action Steps for establishing a Parish Healing Ministry using the *Prayer of Presence*!

- 1. Pastoral Support:** Meet with the pastor/parish administrator and pastoral leader for approval to implement a Parish Healing Ministry based upon the *Prayer of Presence*. Set an appointment to explain and demonstrate the *Prayer of Presence*.
- 2. Prayer Team Formation**—once approved:
  - Designate a Healing Ministry Coordinator
  - Invite Eucharistic Ministers and Intercessory Prayer Ministers to attend a Healing Ministry Formation Workshop. Announce it in weekly bulletins and social media outlets.
  - Conduct the workshop.
  - Schedule the *Prayer of Presence* for preferred Sundays and Mass times.
  - Schedule prayer teams using scheduling programs such as ParishSoft or Flocknote. If possible, align prayer team schedules with those of the ministers of the Eucharist.
- 3. Mass Announcements:**
  - Ensure that the pastor/parish administrator makes the announcements so that parishioners know the ministry is approved by the pastor/parish administrator.
  - Announce the start of the new parish healing ministry (personal prayer) at least one month prior to the start of the ministry. Explain the rationale and format of the *Prayer of Presence*.
  - Publish weekly bulletin announcements
  - Post signs at the entrance to the Church that say, “Prayer Teams are available after Mass today.”
  - At the end of Mass, the celebrant personally invites parishioners to go come forward to a prayer team, saying where they will be located (the front of the Church at the foot of the altar steps is the recommended location).
- 4. The Prayer Team:** Each team consists of two persons—one person leads the prayer, the other stands nearby and prays in intercession. After the recessional hymn, prayer team members come forward to the front of church, stand and face the people and wait for people to come forward for prayer.
- 5. Before you begin to pray** call upon the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then follow these next steps.



## The Prayer v Presence Guidelines

**Welcome the person with a smile saying,** “Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_, who will intercede quietly for you. What is your name?”

**Ask,** “May the intercessor put a hand on your shoulder?”

**Say,** “I invite you to open your hands, palms up, as a sign you are open to receive all that God wants to give you during this prayer.” Support the person by placing your open hands under the person’s open hands.

**Ask,** “What is your favorite IMAGE or PICTURE of Jesus?” WAIT for a response.

**Say,** “What do you want Jesus to do for you!” WAIT.

**Say,** “Close Your Eyes. See yourself with Jesus. Tell Jesus yourself, what you want Him to do for you! LISTEN for His Response.” WAIT.

**Ask,** “What do you sense Jesus is saying to you? Listen”. WAIT.

**Say,** “Continue talking with Jesus, listening for what He is saying to you”. Be still, allowing time for the person to talk with or just be with Jesus in their image. When it seems enough time has passed, or the person eyes open...

**Pray** a short prayer asking Jesus to bless the person and thanking Jesus for revealing Himself to the person and for His Love for the person.

**Close** the prayer with “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son...Amen.”

**Encourage** the person to continue to pray this way, in their Image – Talking, Listening, and Encountering Jesus and, over time, allowing the Holy Spirit to give them a new image to pray with Jesus and grow closer to Him.