

"THE FATHER SEEKS TRUE WORSHIPERS"

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Dear Family in the Two Hearts:

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers, will worship the Father in spirit and truth... for the Father seeks such as these to worship him." (John 4, 23).

The hour has come, Jesus says to the Samaritan woman, and with the word "hour", He wants to show us a specific moment in time chosen by the Father for the fulfillment of his plan for salvation. "Hour" is a particular important time, of singular grace; a precise moment in which God manifests His designs upon mankind.

Each generation has the responsibility to identify "their particular hour", in God's plan, to be able to understand it, embrace the graces that come along with it, and be able to respond responsibly to God's will. In other words, each generation is responsible for identifying the signs which manifest at their particular time, just as the Second Vatican Council teaches us in the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 4: " it belongs to the Church the permanent duty of being able to scrutinize thoroughly the signs of the times, and be able to interpret them in the light of the Gospel, in such a way that each generation can respond accordingly."



God's word is eternal, it is the same for each generation, however, in each of them, it accentuates a particular dimension, depending on the historical circumstances. Our generation, very secularized, disoriented and threatened by so many dark shadows, hears today the exact same words which Christ spoke to the Samaritan woman: "The time has come to be true worshipers!... to recognize Jesus as our Lord, " the center of the history of the Church and the history of humanity" (*Mame Nobiscum Domine*,6), and of your personal history, too. This is the time to truly open our hearts, in order to be able to contemplate the face of Christ, to worship his real presence, to penetrate in his mysteries, and be in the world, illumined and authentic witnesses of his love and life.

Therefore, our time, is a time particularly Eucharistic, a time in which we should be formed in the school of the Heart of Mary, and to enter deeply, guided by Her hand, into the Mysteries of love of the Eucharistic Heart within the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a time of special graces, a time which is Eucharistic, Marian and Charismatic. We will be able to experience the graces of this time if we live it in the cenacle of the heart of the Church.

The Holy Spirit has taken us to this "Eucharistic time" through a spiritual path led by the Servant of God, John Paul II, and which our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, with sharp intuition has taking into his own hands to carry it through. Through this journey, Pope John Paul II guided the attention of the entire Church, through our Blessed Mother, the ever-virgin Mary, to the meditation and the worship of our Eucharistic Christ. In the year 2000, the Jubilee Year, a particular year of mercy and grace, he called us to contemplate the face of Christ, to encounter Him and from Him to embark on the road to the history of the Third Millennium.

In the year 2002, he proclaimed the Year of the Holy Rosary, exhorting us to contemplate the face of Christ in union with the Blessed Mother. He introduced us to the Luminous Mysteries, which reveal the salvific and luminous presence of the Word made flesh among us. How could these luminous mysteries not culminate with the Institution of the Eucharist?

Within the Year of the Rosary, John Paul II, promulgated the encyclical: "*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, "The Church Lives of the Eucharist", with the intention of enlightening the mystery of the Eucharist, and it's inseparable and vital relationship with the Life of the Church. Most importantly, the Holy Father, suggested that all of us in the Church should have a dire need of having a "Eucharistic Spirituality", and He showed us, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as the perfect example, of a truly "Eucharistic woman" (EE. n.53). She is the incomparable model.

On October 7, 2004, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, He gave us the apostolic letter, *Mame Nobiscum Domine*, "Stay with us, oh, Lord", in which He exhorts us to "rediscover the mystery of love of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist", and, proclaimed for the entire Church: "The Year of the Eucharist". This would be from October-2004 to October-2005, concluding with the Synod of Bishops in Rome, which theme was: "The Eucharist source and summit of the life and mission of the Church".

As Pope John Paul II said in his Apostolic Letter: "The Year of the Eucharist has a background which has been enriching itself year by year, firmly centered on the topic of Christ, and the contemplation of His Holy Face." In other words, this particular year is seen as the culmination of the entire road taken". Just as the shining star which guided the three Kings, our Holy Father, through his Pontificate, made us walk a road which would culminate at the foot of our Savior, at the foot of our Eucharistic Jesus, so that we could prostrate ourselves in

His Holy Presence and worship Him. I believe this to be another sign (of many) which revolved around the life of this Great Pope. The fact that He died during the Year of the Eucharist, and that He was able to accomplish his mission, always holding on tight to Mary's hand. Also, the fact that He was able to take the entire Church, in front of the Lord, in front of our Eucharistic Jesus. This is the reason why, his last word, before entering the House of the Father, was Amen!

He was known as the Pope who lived prostrated in front of the Eucharist. He lived having the Eucharist as the center of the life of the Church, and He died guiding the eyes of the Church to contemplate Our Eucharistic Lord. Another sign, which for me is very clear, of this journey by which John Paul II took us to the feet of the Blessed Sacrament, is the fact that the theme which he chose for World Youth Day in Cologne, (precisely where the remains of the Three Kings are located) was: " We have come to worship Him". This particular event would become for Pope Benedict XVI, his first apostolic trip outside of Italy. There he knelt with the youth, and overall, with the entire Church, at the feet of our Lord, the Eucharistic Christ.

This Eucharistic mission, Pope John Paul II, placed it in the hands of his great successor, who will gather the entire Church together at the foot of our Eucharistic Christ, and from there, with the power which flows from the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, he will take the Church through the dark and dangerous desert by which the Church walks at the beginning of the Third Millennium. At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Congress, during his homily, Pope Benedict XVI told us: "the world which we live in, many times characterized by it's out of control consumerism, by it's religious indifference, by it's secularism which is closed to it's consequences, could appear as a harsh desert, just as the great and terrible desert described on the first reading, taken from the book of Deuteronomy. God set out to help the Jewish people who were in trouble with the gift of manna. We need this Bread of Life to confront the efforts and weariness of this journey. If the Church lives of the Eucharist, how can we live without it?

The Holy Spirit has desired to take the Church of these times, to a deep Eucharistic spirituality, because it is precisely here whereby lies the "key" to the new Springtime of the Church: ;The Church lives of the Eucharist! May the worship and meditation of the Eucharistic Jesus be the center of the life of the Church and of our lives!

In order to be able to learn this spirituality, John Paul II told us that we should enter into the school of the Heart of Mary, for her heart is so perfectly united to Christ. She is the woman of the Eucharist, the one that contemplated the mysteries of her Son with her immaculate eyes and pondered them and kept them carefully, in Her Maternal Heart. Therefore, the Church and every one of us must at the cenacle of her Maternal Heart learn to contemplate the profound mysteries of love of the Heart of Her Son.

In the love of the Eucharistic Heart,

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