

ADORATION 101

THE SACRAMENT OF CHARITY:

Eucharistic Participation for the Sick and the Care for Prisoners

In this week's article we will take a look at Eucharistic Participation for the Sick and the Care for Prisoners. Commenting in his 2007 Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* (§§58-59), Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI reminds us that those who cannot attend places of worship for reasons of health or advanced age, whether living at home or in the hospital, should be able to receive communion frequently. "*In this way,*" he continues, "*they can strengthen their relationship with Christ, crucified and risen, and feel fully involved in the Church's life and mission by offering of their sufferings in union with our Lord's sacrifice.*"

Particular attention, also, must be given to the disabled. All places of worship should be designed so as to accommodate them that they may also fully participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We know from Scripture that our Lord welcomed all who had various disabilities and on many occasions, cured them! Finally, whenever possible, Eucharistic communion should be made available to the mentally handicapped. If they are baptized and confirmed, they receive the Eucharist in the faith of the family or the community that accompanies them.

Moving forward, heeding Christ's words in the Gospel, "*I was in prison and you came to me* (Mt. 25:36)", and thus fulfilling this Corporal Work of Mercy, Pope Benedict tells us that we cannot neglect prisoners. "*Sharing in the Eucharist and receiving Holy Communion at this difficult and painful time can surely contribute to the quality of a prisoners faith journey and to full social rehabilitation.*" Imagine yourself in their position and not being able to receive our Lord when you most need Him.

Both of these examples give us opportunities to practice charity. We are all part of the Body of Christ, a family, with many and various members, and it is our **duty** to look out for and attend to those in greater need than ourselves. In fact, it is what we will ultimately be judged upon. Let us remember that we're not in this alone. We help carry one another no matter the cost or inconvenience. It's what our lord did for us and what He also expects us to do for others. Paul A. Ray **NEXT WEEK:** Migrants and participation in the Eucharist and Large-Scale Concelebrations