

## ADORATION 101

### THE SACRAMENT OF CHARITY:

#### *Migrants and Participation in the Eucharist and Large-Scale Concelebrations*

We move along in Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, on the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of the Church's Life and Mission (¶ 60-61) and touch briefly on the topics of Migrants and Participation in the Eucharist and Large-Scale Concelebrations.

The Holy Father shows his, and the Church's, gratitude for all those who help with the influx of migrants who, for various reasons, have to leave their homeland. By doing so, they fulfill Christ's command to "welcome the stranger" (Mt. 25:35). Particular attention, however, needs to be drawn toward those brothers and sisters from the Eastern Catholic Church. It's hard enough having to be away from home, and it's another thing not to be able to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in your own Rite. Therefore, whenever possible, they ought to be able to be served by priests from their own Rite. We are to welcome them, wherever they are, as our family in Christ. The blending of the different Rites, especially when it comes to practicing fraternal charity toward one another, brings about enrichment for both sides and teaches all of us a great deal about those Rites we may not necessarily be too familiar with.

Now regarding the large-scale participation in celebrations commemorating a special event or occasion, such as the one we here in Detroit have coming up with the Beatification of Solanus Casey at Ford Field, the Church sees it in two ways. First, it's always a sight to behold. To see so many, perhaps thousands, of faithful Catholics together celebrating a solemn event, complete with their bishop and a multitude of priests from near and wide, can be an authentic boost to our spiritual lives. However, on the other hand, order ought to be the primary focus for those who organize such events. Otherwise, these powerful occasions could lead to a shift of focus; a focus away from the Sacrifice of Christ and onto distractions caused by an unstructured foundation. Pope Benedict tells us that, "*This can be done by proper coordination and by arranging the place of worship so that priests and lay faithful are truly able to participate fully.*"

The desire is that all the participants can receive the most graces made available to them through these extraordinary situations. Paul A. Ray **NEXT WEEK**: The Latin Language and Eucharistic Celebrations in Small Groups