

ENGAGING CATHOLICISM

BECOMING
EUCHARISTIC
PEOPLE

The Hope and Promise
of Parish Life

Small-Group Discussion Guide

by Ave Maria Press



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Instructions for Small-Group Participants

We are so glad that you are here!

Whether you're reading *Becoming Eucharistic People: The Hope and Promise of Parish Life* with a group from your parish, in your regular small group or book club, or on your own, this guide is designed to help you get the most out of your reading. The questions in this guide are taken from the book and journaling space is provided to write down your own thoughts and reflections as well as a space to take notes during your small-group discussions. The questions are designed to be read and reflected on during or after reading each chapter.

Members of the group should do this and take notes prior to coming together. If you're reading this on your own, take time after each chapter to pray and reflectively consider these questions.

CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC CULTURE?

1. Having read through this section on culture, list five to ten features of the culture of your parish.

2. Imagine that someone outside your parish community showed up to Mass. How do you think that person would describe the culture of your parish? Would that description be different than the features you listed above?

3. Do you see the four aspects of a Eucharistic culture in your parish? Are there areas where your parish requires a conversion to foster a new culture?

CHAPTER 2

A CULTURE OF EUCHARISTIC REVERENCE

1. What are your first reactions to these five dimensions of an enculturated reverence at Mass?

2. Would you say, upon first reaction, that your parish celebrates the liturgy in an enculturated reverent manner?

3. Download the suggested retreat and day of discernment on the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy's website on enculturated reverence mcgrath.nd.edu/resources/becoming-eucharistic-people-supplemental-resources. Send any questions or thoughts that you have about running this retreat to ndcl@nd.

CHAPTER 3

A CULTURE OF INTEGRAL EUCHARISTIC FORMATION

1. Before continuing, think about adult catechesis at your parish. What kind of formation takes place? Would you describe this formation as integral? Why or why not?

2. Think about catechesis in your parish across all ages and stages. Does catechesis in your parish attend to each of the five tasks laid out above?

3. What do you wish you better understood about the Eucharist or the celebration of Mass?

4. Having learned about the roles of memory, understanding, and desire, what insights have you had about an adult approach to catechesis?

CHAPTER 3

A CULTURE OF INTEGRAL EUCHARISTIC FORMATION

5. What implications can these ideas have in your parish or Catholic school?

6. What did you learn about catechesis in this chapter?

7. How might an integral Eucharistic formation benefit your parish in becoming Eucharistic people?

8. What other small-group discussion topics might you be interested in relative to an integral, adult Eucharistic catechesis? Please email us at ndcl@nd.edu with these ideas.

CHAPTER 4

A EUCHARISTIC POPULAR CATHOLICISM

1. Is popular Catholicism, as defined by Goizueta, integral to the identity of your parish. If so, how do you know? If not, why?

2. How might popular Catholicism, as laid out in this chapter, serve as a salve against a private Catholicism focused only on the individual?

3. Think about devotions that you learned as a child or adult. How are they Eucharistic in the way defined by this book?

4. Family and work are both defined by the Eucharist. How?

5. Does your parish treat families and workers as Eucharistic? If you don't (or you could do better), what ideas did this chapter generate for you? Are there ways that you could use the resources available online for cultivating a Eucharistic popular Catholicism in your parish setting?

Visit eucharisticrevival.org/about/#resources to get outlines of potential ways of worshipping the Eucharist outside of Mass including Eucharistic Processions and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHAPTER 5

A CULTURE OF EUCHARISTIC SOLIDARITY

1. Think about your life. Are you Eucharistically coherent? Where do you need to change?

2. Ask the same questions, but this time about your parish or diocese.

3. Look at the suggested service for a parish-based Reconciliation available online. If so, how does the act of penance restore us to practice Eucharistic solidarity?

4. Look over the resources online dedicated to the works of mercy. What makes each work of mercy Eucharistic?

5. What could your parish do to better cultivate these Eucharistic works of mercy as acts of solidarity?

CHAPTER 5

A CULTURE OF EUCHARISTIC SOLIDARITY

6. Be honest. Is your parish polarized over politics? How?

7. How might the Eucharist allow you to move forward if you are polarized? How might the Eucharist help you to uphold the dignity of each and every human life?

8. Gather a group of parishioners to take our course on Catholic Social Teaching and the Eucharist. Who would you invite?

9. What did you learn as you took this course about Eucharistic solidarity and politics alike?



CONCLUSION

A PLACE WHERE HEARTS ARE CONTINUALLY AFLAME

How will you commit to a Eucharistic Revival in your heart, your family, your parish,
and your community?
