

# Faith Sharing/Discussion Questions

## Eucharist

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By Rev. Robert Barron

These faith sharing/discussion questions accompany *Eucharist* by Father Robert Barron. Fr. Barron is professor of systematic theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois. He is the author of many articles and books, including *And Now I See*, *The Strangest Way*, and *The Priority of Christ*. Fr. Barron offers regular commentary on books, movies, and events at his Word on Fire website: <http://www.wordonfire.org/>. In this book Fr. Barron offers us interesting and new ways of thinking about and praying with the Eucharist.

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### AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

- How has the Eucharist been life-giving bread for me? (Page 10)
- In what ways does the Eucharist help me to remember Jesus? (Page 10) How does the Eucharist call me to conversion? (Page 11)
- In the description of the book and movie *Babette's Feast* the author shares this quotation "our eyes are opened and we realize that grace is infinite." How is the Eucharist an experience for me of God's infinite grace? (Page 20)
- What sacrifice am I willing to make to participate in the Lord's Supper? (Pages 22–25)

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### CHAPTER ONE—THE EUCHARIST AS SACRED MEAL

- All things are related because God made them. Examine your attitudes and actions toward other people and toward the rest of creation. How well do my attitudes and actions reflect God's never-ending love? (Pages 28–29)
- The author writes "God wants the sacred meal; we want to eat alone and on our terms." How do my needs prevent me from being able to participate fully in the divine banquet? (Page 32)
- The author writes "What you receive as a gift, give as a gift." What prevents me from receiving the love of the Eucharist? What keeps me from sharing that love with others? (Page 43)
- In the Eucharist Jesus invites us to feed on him, draw his life into us so that we may conform ourselves more completely to his. How does this explanation of the Eucharist coincide with my experience of the Eucharist? What encourages or prevents my experience from being as the author describes? (Page 46)
- In what ways does the Eucharist lead me to love more deeply, serve others selflessly, and treat others with gentleness and compassion? What prevents me from responding to the Eucharist in these ways? (Page 48)

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## **CHAPTER TWO—THE EUCHARIST AS SACRIFICE**

- If there can be no communion without sacrifice, what sacrifice am I willing to make to participate in the communion of the Church? (Page 62)
- What pledge do I make to God when I receive the Eucharist? How seriously do I take this pledge? (Page 68)
- What are the temptations that I face each day? How do these temptations keep me from complete union (communion) with Christ? (Page 81)
- Where do I seek the waters of life other than in Jesus? (Page 82)
- From what am I saved by Christ's sacrifice? How does my sacrifice benefit others?

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## **CHAPTER THREE—IF IT'S ONLY A SYMBOL, TO HELL WITH IT**

- What does the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist mean to me? (Page 95)
- How is my life in the Christian community strengthened by eating Jesus' body and blood? (Page 101)
- How do the historical arguments found on pages 111-114 confuse or enlighten my understanding of the Eucharist? (Pages 111–114)
- How can I explain the difference between sacramental species and proper species when speaking of Jesus in the Eucharist? (Pages 119–123)
- What are some of the implications of the fact that the Eucharist forgives venial sins? Why should a person living in mortal sin not receive the Eucharist? (Page 124)
- How does receiving the Eucharist change my life? (Page 135)

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## **EPILOGUE: THE EMMAUS SUPPER**

- How has my understanding of the Eucharist been strengthened, affirmed, and challenged by this book?