

# National Eucharistic Revival Supplement – May 2024

As we draw closer to the National Eucharistic Congress in July, we are reminded that we must hand on our Eucharistic faith as the disciples did after they experienced Jesus on the Road to Emmaus.



## THEME: TEACHING THE EUCHARIST TO CHILDREN

### Eucharistic Saint



**Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914)** This saint-pope often gathered children around him in papal audiences and conversed with them. He loved the innocence of children as the Lord had loved them. In 1910, he published a decree allowing children to receive the Eucharist as early as seven years of age. Previously, only those who were confirmed were allowed to receive Holy Communion. He is known as “the Pope of the Eucharist”.

### Back to Basics

**THE DOMESTIC CHURCH:** Our Church has always placed the primary responsibility for handing on the Catholic faith in the family, not in systems of formal education, although important. Our Catechism states clearly that the family is its own type of church:



*The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called “the domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity (CCC, 1666).*

In preparing children for their First Holy Communion, parents impart the first Eucharistic catechesis, teaching their children the essential virtues of reverence, purity of heart, humility, and the necessary connection between the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist.

### Faith in Action



**Wonderful Symbolism** – Dressing as little brides and grooms for First Holy Communion offers a unique opportunity to teach children that Christ is a husband whose Bride is the Church. This symbolism communicates to children that Christ *loves His Church* with the deepest possible love.

**Relationship** – As children grow, they need ongoing instruction in the Church’s Eucharistic faith, which means they need to develop a relationship with the Bread of Life Himself. They do this primarily by their family’s fidelity to Sunday Mass as well as through the numerous influences of catechesis, Eucharistic adoration, retreats, devotions, and preaching.

*“The Eucharist is the supreme proof of the love of Jesus. After this, there is nothing more but Heaven itself.” ~ St. Peter Julian Eymard*

### National Eucharistic Revival News and Resources

Keep up to date on the National Eucharistic Revival at the Bishops’ website: [www.EucharisticRevival.org](http://www.EucharisticRevival.org). For news on the upcoming Eucharistic Congress, go to [www.eucharisticcongress.org](http://www.eucharisticcongress.org). Also, get the *Eucharistic Revival Edition Prayer Cards* at [www.SitStandKneel.com](http://www.SitStandKneel.com) for great evangelization resources to spread the Eucharistic fire!