

## REVERENCE AT THE CONSECRATION

*Dear Parishioners,*

The supreme moment of the Holy Mass is, as I hope all know, the **Consecration**. This is when the priest, standing *in persona Christi* (“in the Person of Christ”) utters those sublime words of Christ Himself: **“This is My Body... This is the Cup of My Blood.”** Christ then becomes present in the Sacred Host and Precious Blood.

In fact, there is a “double Consecration,” as it were, since the bread and wine are prayed over separately. At this moment the miracle of transubstantiation occurs and the bread and wine are changed into the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. To accentuate the importance of this moment bells are usually rung, and in more solemn Masses, incense is used. The priest then genuflects in adoration before Christ’s Real Presence on the altar.

If there is any single moment when the faithful are called to focus and concentrate during the Mass, this is it. The rubrics stipulate that all who are capable be kneeling. Even those using the cry rooms, in the choir areas or outside of the pews, should be on their knees for this Moment of Moments.

Following the priest’s genuflection, he elevates first the Sacred Host, then the Chalice with the Precious Blood (thus it is called, “The Elevation”) In this way he shows to the faithful the great Gift that God has given for our spiritual nourishment.

All eyes should be fixed on the Host and Chalice. Absolute and reverent silence must be observed. All commotion or distraction must end. In fact, the entire Mass demands silence and reverence, yet herein I wish to indicate that every effort is required at the Consecration and Elevation to maintain reverence. In some countries there is even a pious custom wherein the faithful whisper softly together at the Elevation, *“My Lord and my God!”*

There is another Elevation of the Eucharist in the Mass, this time at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer (the Doxology) when the priest says, *“Through Him, with Him, in Him...”*

And lastly there is the final Elevation when the priest solemnly proclaims to all, *“This is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world...”*

Again, all must focus intently and reverently upon the the Hidden Jesus Who is present in the Eucharist.

From all this one can see how out of place it is when someone gets up and walks about for this or that reason at these mystical moments in the Holy Mass. I would like to ask that this exhortation to piety be considered with great seriousness.

I believe that consciousness of these sacramental focus points will serve to enhance one’s appreciation of the great Divine/Human nexus that occurs at the sacred altars of God. In fact, such is the common judgment of Catholic piety.

*In Christ Eucharistic,  
Father de Rosa*