



# REAL PRESENCE REAL FUTURE

*"And behold I will be with you until the end of the world."*

Bishop Robert Brennan calls upon the Diocese of Columbus to celebrate Jesus Christ's Real Presence in Eucharist in a special way this Lent. Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17, the diocese will launch **40 Days of Adoration**. Every day for 40 days, a different parish throughout the Diocese will host Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration throughout the day. Some of the hosting parishes will expose the Eucharist for 24 hours or longer. Others will expose the Blessed Sacrament after their morning Mass and conclude with Benediction in the evening.

Parishioners and families of host parishes, neighboring parishes, and Catholic school communities are encouraged to volunteer for shifts to pray before the Blessed Sacrament on the parish's designated day. Even though local parishes are sponsoring each day of Adoration, the entire Diocese of Columbus is asked to participate. An ancient custom from the church of Rome is to visit a different "stational church" each day of Lent. In the same manner, the people of the church of Columbus are invited to visit and spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist at as many different host parishes on their day of Adoration. The schedule of host parishes is available at [columbuscatholic.org/40days](http://columbuscatholic.org/40days).

Bishop Brennan invites everyone in the Diocese to a time of Adoration this Lent. "Our habit of adoring the Lord is so very appropriate. Remember at the Last Supper, the night before Jesus died, what did he say?" asked Bishop Brennan. "He brought his disciples in the garden and he said to them. 'Stay with me. Pray with me.' That's what Jesus is inviting us into during Adoration. When we're in front of the Blessed Sacrament we experience the Lord's presence in a very profound way. To me, that is what I enjoy most about Adoration - having that moment to simply pour out my heart and maybe say nothing, but just be there with the Lord as a friend."

The reason for this Lenten 40 Days of Adoration campaign is twofold. First, emerging from the COVID pandemic, it is fitting to celebrate the great gift of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Many have not yet returned from the temporary halt to public Masses and from the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This special time of Adoration is an invitation for all Catholics to remember the centrality of Christ's Real Presence. "There are times where we have Adoration through Exposition when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance so

that we can focus even more sharply on the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. You see, it's important simply to be with the Lord," said Bishop Brennan.

The second reason for the Lenten 40 Days of Adoration throughout the Diocese is to prepare for planning for the future presence of the Church and her mission to evangelize the local community. Bishop Brennan's stated goal for Diocesan Planning is to "build belief and reliance on the Eucharist through opportunities for Adoration, Confession, and a return to public worship" and to "engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the Real Presence of the Lord in their lives and how they can share that presence with others."

For more information, please visit [columbuscatholic.org/40days](http://columbuscatholic.org/40days).