

# Sacred Art Spotlight

In front of the altar is a painting by the Italian Renaissance artist Raphael (1483-1520), *Disputation of the Holy Sacrament* (5954). The fresco is in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican and depicts Christianity's victory over Philosophy. This magnificent painting is built around the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance on the altar. The Church Triumphant above and the Church Militant below are positioned in two semicircles and are focused on our Eucharistic Lord.

At the top of the arch is God the Father, bathed in the golden light of heaven. He is blessing all and holding the world in his hand. The Resurrected Christ is directly below presenting the wounds of His passion. He is flanked by His Mother and St. John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit represented as a dove radiates sanctifying grace. The vertical line of Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Most Holy Trinity – directs our eyes to the monstrance.

In his portrayal of heaven, Raphael paints different variations of angels representing the different choirs: Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Archangels and Angels. The horizontal line of Saints seated on the clouds are figures of the Old and New Testament.

On either side of the altar, placed within a vast landscape, are earthly figures that are discussing the centrality of the Eucharist. Popes, bishops, Doctors of the Church (Pope Gregory the Great, Jerome, Augustine and Ambrose), theologians, philosophers (Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euclid and Ptolemy), artists, architects, and writers are all present.

In this image we see how the Eucharist is our link to heaven. At every Mass, heaven is brought down to earth and earth is transported to heaven. Raphael in this breathtaking image tries to capture these mysteries for our further contemplation, wonder and awe.

## Prayer of Command

In His name and by the power of His Cross and Blood, I ask Jesus to bind any evil spirits, forces and powers of the earth, air, fire, or water, of the netherworld and the satanic forces of nature. By the power of the Holy Spirit and by His authority, I ask Jesus Christ to break any curses, hexes, or spells and send them back to where they came from, if it be His Holy Will. I beseech Thee Lord Jesus to protect us by pouring Thy Precious Blood on us (my family, etc.), which Thou hast shed for us and I ask Thee to command that any departing spirits leave quietly, without disturbance, and go straight to Thy Cross to dispose of as Thou sees fit. I ask Thee to bind any demonic interaction, interplay or communications. I place *N. (person, place or thing)* under the protection of the Blood of Jesus Christ which He shed for us. *Amen.*

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## Prayer of Abandonment

Father,  
I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will.  
Whatever you may do, I thank you:  
I am ready for all, I accept all.  
Let only your will be done in me,  
and in all your creatures -  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into your hands I commend my soul:  
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence,  
for you are my Father.

*Author: Charles de Foucauld*

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## Election Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

O Virgin of Guadalupe, Your appearance in Mexico changed the course of history. Human sacrifice ceased and millions were converted to Jesus Christ. Pray for our nation now. Guide our elections through your gracious intercession. Change hearts and minds to uphold the dignity and value of every human life. Stem the tide of moral degeneration and defend the sanctity of marriage. Protect our nation from terrorism, war, and natural disaster. May goodness triumph over evil. May candidates be committed to God's truth, be elected and reelected, and may our nation prosper through Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen*