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## Presentation

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# FEATURE:

## *A Vincentian Reflection on the Eucharist*

### Presentation

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*Editor of Vincentiana*

Through the initiative of Pope John Paul II, a man who had a great love for the Eucharist, we are now celebrating the Year of the Eucharist.<sup>1</sup> There is a moral obligation to study and know the two documents that the Pope wrote on this theme: the Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*,<sup>2</sup> and the Apostolic Letter, *Mane nobiscum Domine*.<sup>3</sup>

John Paul II said that in order to evangelize the world it is necessary to have “expert” witnesses who are able to celebrate, adore and contemplate the Eucharist because *the Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist*.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, the mission of the Church is a continuation of the mission of Christ and the Church obtains her spiritual power in the communion with his Body and his Blood. The goal of the Eucharist *is the communion of mankind with Christ and in him with the Father and the Holy Spirit*.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Year of the Eucharist began on 17 October 2004 at the conclusion of the 48<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress (Guadalajara, Mexico, 10-17 October 2004) and will conclude on 19 October 2005 during the 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Bishops that will deal with the theme of the Eucharist (Vatican City, 2-29 October 2005).

<sup>2</sup> JOHN PAUL II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 17 April 2003.

<sup>3</sup> JOHN PAUL II, *Mane nobiscum Domine*, 7 October 2004.

<sup>4</sup> JOHN PAUL II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 26.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 22.