



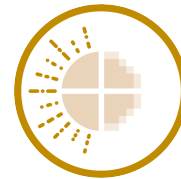
Presence: Physical vs. Virtual

General Principles

- "The Word became flesh" so Jesus is not simply an idea, but a physical reality.
- We experience the presence of Christ in the gathered community, which is possible through physical gatherings, but not fully in a virtual manner.
- The sacraments are physical signs of inner realities – they require created things and people gathered in proximity.
- Sacramental Communion completes our participation in the Eucharist: we meet Christ in Holy Communion at Mass in a way beyond any virtual experience.
- Church buildings are dedicated for our worship and are truly the "house of God".

Source Documents

- John 1:1-14
- 1 Cor 10:16-17
- Psalm 84
- *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds*
- *Built of Living Stones*
- *Mass for the Dedication of a Church*



Source Quotes

"Blessed are those who dwell in your house! They never cease to praise you."

-Psalm 84

"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and

without him nothing came to be...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

-John 1:1-14

"As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion."

-Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds, #5

"Just as the term 'Church' refers to the living temple, God's People, the term 'church' also has been used to describe "the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and celebrate the eucharist." That building is both the house of God on earth (*domus Dei*) and a house fit for the prayers of the saints (*domus ecclesiae*). Such a house of prayer must be expressive of the presence of God and suited for the celebration of the sacrifice of Christ, as well as reflective of the community that celebrates there."

-Built of Living Stones, #16

"We too are gathered round the table of the Lord, the table of the Eucharistic sacrifice, in which he once again gives us his Body and makes present the one sacrifice of the Cross. It is in listening to his word, in nourishing ourselves with his Body and his Blood that he moves us on from being a multitude to being a community, from anonymity to communion. The Eucharist is the sacrament of communion that brings us out of individualism so that we may follow him together, living out our faith in him."

-Pope Francis, 5/30/13

"The church is the proper place for the liturgical prayer of the parish community, especially the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday. It is also the privileged place for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and reservation of the Eucharist for Communion for the sick. Whenever communities have built houses for worship, the design of the building has been of critical importance. Churches are never 'simply gathering spaces but signify and make visible the Church living in [a particular] place, the dwelling of God' among us, now 'reconciled and united in Christ.' As such,

the building itself becomes 'a sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.' Every church building is a gathering place for the assembly, a resting place, a place of encounter with God, as well as a point of departure on the Church's unfinished journey toward the reign of God."

-Built of Living Stones, #17

"Almighty ever-living God, pour out your grace upon this place and extend the gift of your help to all who call upon you, that the power of your word and of the Sacraments may strengthen here the hearts of all the faithful."

-Collect Prayer, Mass for the Dedication of a Church

"For you have made the whole world a temple of your glory, that your name might everywhere be extolled, yet you allow us to consecrate to you apt places for the divine mysteries. And so, we dedicate joyfully to your majesty this house of prayer, built by human labor. Here is foreshadowed the mystery of the true Temple, here is prefigured the heavenly Jerusalem."

-Preface, Mass for the Dedication of a Church