

# ADORATION VS VENERATION

## ADORATION

### LATRIA

Latria is a Greek term that means adoration. This level of honor is supreme and reserved for God alone. As our creator, God is above all else and requires a distinct type of veneration that rises to the level of adoration. Conversely, the saints and angels are created by God and thus require a lesser degree of honor.

As stated in paragraph 2096 of the Catechism, "Adoration is the first act of the virtue of religion. To adore God is to acknowledge him as God, as the Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love."



## VENERATION

### DULIA

Dulia is a Greek word that refers to the veneration of saints, angels, and other holy figures. It is different from adoration because it means honor, as opposed to the adoration that the Church teaches is reserved for God alone. It is proper to venerate the angels and saints as role models and intercessors, asking them to pray for us.

### HYPERDULIA

Hyperdulia refers to the level of veneration that is reserved for the Virgin Mary. Due to her vital role in the history of salvation through bearing Jesus, she requires a level of honor distinct from the other saints.

### PROSKYNESIS

From the Greek words pros (towards) and kyneo (to kiss), proskynesis refers to the veneration of holy items, including icons and relics. It is applied to reverence and devotion towards the divine, for example, bowing before a crucifix.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SAINTS

"Praise and bless my Lord, and give him thanks and serve him with great humility." - Francis of Assisi

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest of the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us." - St. Alphonsus Liguori

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." - St. Gianna Molla

"The saints did not all begin well, but they ended well." - St. John Vianney

"Follow the saints, because those who follow them will become saints." - Pope St. Clement I

"Mankind's humble adoration of God in the Holy Eucharistic will be the weight that crushes the head of Satan." (Jesus speaking to Venerable Sister Consolata Betrone)

