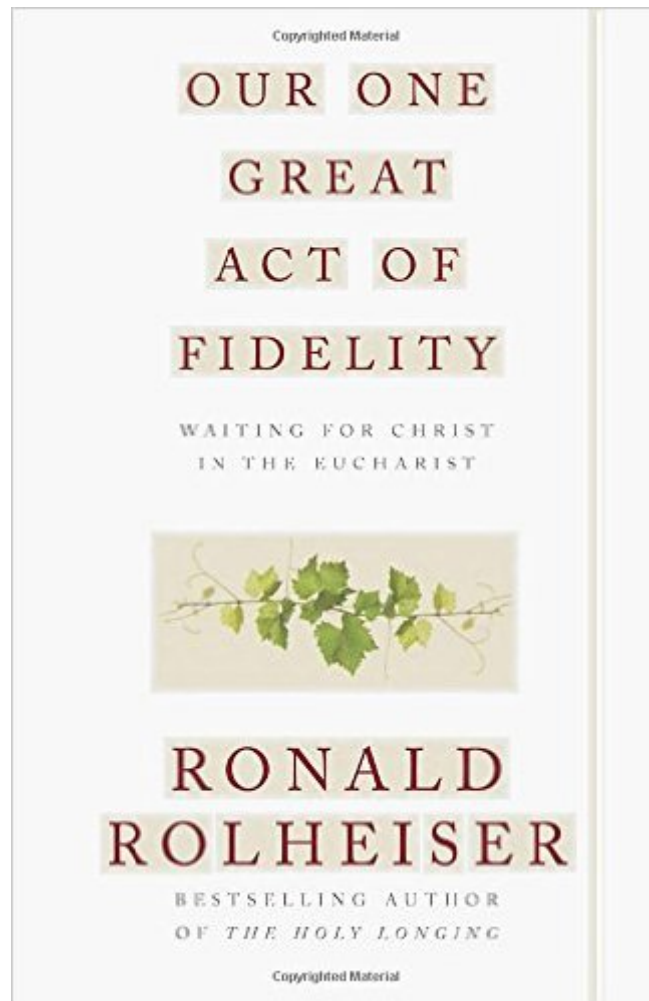


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# Our One Great Act Of Fidelity: Waiting For Christ In The Eucharist



## Synopsis

From the author of the bestselling, *The Holy Longing*, comes a book about the central expression of faith for hundreds of millions of Christians, the Eucharist. More so than anything else, the Eucharist is what anchors many peoples' life, prayer, and ultimately the way they live their lives. In this deeply personal book, Father Ronald Rolheiser delves into the history and meaning of this sacred tradition, drawing upon the insights of various scripture scholars, theologians, and church teachings. With personal warmth and great insight, he reflects on his own particular Roman Catholic upbringing and the centrality that the Eucharist has within that tradition. At the same time, he looks at other denominations' traditions around the Eucharist. *Our One Great Act of Fidelity* is an investigation into the ways people secure their faith and belief and discover true intimacy with God and each other. Ultimately, however, it is a spiritual and a personal statement of how Ronald Rolheiser understands the Eucharist and why he celebrates it every day. Ronald Rolheiser is a specialist in the field of spirituality and is currently President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Father Rolheiser is the author of *The Holy Longing*, *The Restless Heart*, *Forgotten Among the Lilies*, *The Shattered Lantern*, and *Against an Infinite Horizon*. He writes a weekly column that appears in more than 90 Catholic publications. More information on his work can be found at [RonRolheiser.com](http://RonRolheiser.com). From the Hardcover edition.

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## Customer Reviews

i am a priest and i find this book to be a biblically based and practical explanation of our greatest act of worship the Eucharist, the meal of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. The book touches the heart of

the faithful and shows how Jesus is the Word who communicates to us as we are, physical with five senses and spiritual with a longing to be fed. I find the book presenting Jesus, the Real Presence, as a Gift, a Person, Someone to be received into my heart and not a 'thing' to be analyzed and fragmented with philosophical thought. A must read for as many as possible. Last, thankfully, John 6, a most fascinating chapter in all of the Bible was used and emphasized Jesus as the Bread of Life and we can freely choose to receive this Gift, or walk away. We do the latter at a great loss to our soul. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." He is the Word of Eternal Life.

This book has expanded my understanding of the Eucharist. The book is written that you could read any chapter in any order. You will want to go back and reread!

Although written from a distinctly Roman Catholic approach to the rites and rituals of church participation and attendance, this book also provides a universal insight to the reasons for communion and for participating in a Eucharistic worship service. Well written and easily understood, it makes good reading for any passionate Christian at any time, but especially in the season of Lent.

I am a Pastoral Minister and have taught classes on the Eucharist and so I felt I was well informed. Rohlheiser's *Our One Great Act of Fidelity* is insightful and inspirational. It is also challenging. The book challenges us to look beyond our own personal relationship with God and to make the gift of Eucharist alive in every aspect of our lives. These are not new ideas but Rohlheiser invites us to see Eucharist with new eyes and to take that understanding to change and invigorate all aspects of our lives. *Our One Great Act of Fidelity* would be a useful and inspirational book for a book discussion group.

I found this book refreshing. It was an easy read as well as thought provoking. It gives a new light to the central focus of Catholicism.

I notice that a number of favorable reviewers have leadership roles in the Catholic Church. As somebody who has been active in Catholic adult faith formation for quite a number of years, I strongly endorse their admiration for this book. Fr. Rohlheiser doesn't allow the Eucharist to remain a theological abstraction to be taught, but puts it in the center of our everyday reality, to be lived. Too often our everyday reality is a grating disappointment and the author finds the Eucharist "the one

place where I can be faithful, where I can essentially measure up... I can't always measure up morally and spiritually, but inside of my perpetual inadequacy and occasional doubt and confusion, I can be faithful in this one deep way." (p. 120)The author speaks of the challenge contained in the Eucharist itself. For instance, "the Eucharistic table is a table of social non-distinction, a place where the rich and the poor are called to be together beyond all class and status." And we are called to take that non-distinction from worship into service, as the hymn "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" puts it. (pp. 74-75)For a deepened and deepening start toward some comprehension of the power and potential of the Eucharist, this book is highly recommended.

Fr. Rolheiser brings together a great many theological themes relating to the Eucharist and weaves them into chapters that relate in a practical way to Christian life. This slim volume will enrich the lives of many.

There are so many examples in the book of the Eucharist as gratitude. The essence of this sacrament is certainly a grateful heart that knows, loves and serves the Lord in all that we are and do. His presence in the Eucharist energizes our entire day and calls us to return to Him day after day. We come renewed and refreshed by His love for us. He constantly blesses us with graces and blessings to bring to our work place to assist others in becoming stronger and more thoughtful disciples that want others to know and love Him also. The Eucharistic gratitude of knowing that our 'neighbor' is working as hard as we are to bring Christ to the world. Rohlheiser has wonderful words and thoughts to express his understanding of Eucharist as a thanksgiving, a holy longing for His presence. Saint Augustine's sermons on the Eucharist is a good mediation for all as they incorporate that sense of gratitude and longing.

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