



**B**earing in mind my remarks in last week's Pastor's Column, we know that as Catholics, the Eucharist holds prime of place in our worship and in our Catholic Churches. We also bear in mind the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #314-315 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2002):

"In accordance with the structure of each Church and legitimate local customs, the Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the Church that is truly noble, prominent, readily visible, beautifully decorated, and suitable for prayer.

A tabernacle, located near a main entry doorway, in which there is usually a lot of foot traffic, and a general greeting and meeting place, is hardly suitable for prayer. Nor is it prominently located, or readily visible for 3/4 of the Church.

Therefore, on the first Sunday of Advent, (December 1-2, 2007) you will find our Tabernacle located in the Sanctuary, above and behind the main altar. This location will ensure a number of things:

First, anyone entering the Church will realize that he or she is indeed in a Roman Catholic Church because the Eucharist reserved in the Tabernacle is in the most sacred part of the Church.

Second, the Tabernacle will be visible from just about every location throughout the Church.

Third, its prominence will serve to remind all why we attend Church – in order to present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Finally, the location of the Tabernacle, away from noise and a good deal of exiting and entering, will make it more suitable for prayer for the faithful, thereby generating a greater, and most appropriate, respect for the presence of Our Lord and Savior.

Surely with Jesus Christ truly in our presence, a respectful decorum is expected of us!

God bless you, and may you have a productive, holy Advent Season as you prepare for Christmas.

Father Richard

