

CREATING A WITNESS VIDEO



To help celebrate the Year of the Eucharist, consider (with your pastor's permission) creating witness videos that profess Christ's true presence in the Eucharist. A witness video is a short video where one or more people directly address a camera and speak about the true presence and how that affects their lives. These do not need to be professional speakers, and the videos do not need to be fancy or long. Short 30-60 second videos of ordinary people speaking from the heart, simply shot, will have the greatest impact.

Identify Candidates

Anyone who believes that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist and is comfortable sharing his or her faith is a perfect candidate for a witness video. Try to get a mix of people from different age groups and backgrounds. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, daily communicants, members of youth groups, and members of small groups are all likely candidates. You may also want to try asking people after Adoration.

Ask

Approach your candidates and introduce yourself if you do not know them personally. Explain what you're doing and why; ask if they'd be willing to share their faith. Answer any questions that they might have, and reassure them that after you film, you will allow them to view their response, and, if they so choose, delete it or redo it. It may be helpful to emphasize that their comments do not need to be profound, so long as they are honest. A simple but heartfelt witness is more desirable than an eloquent but insincere one. **Be sure to have your subject or his/her guardian sign a release form (see website for a copy).**

Check Your Location

Make sure that you are in a suitable location for video. There should be ample light, a background that is not distracting, and it should be quiet enough that you will be able to clearly hear the subject's witness. Make sure that your video will not disturb anyone else around you. Selecting a location where there is not a strong echo will help ensure that the audio is clear.

Practice

Offer your subject the opportunity to do a quick "dress rehearsal" of what they want to say before you start recording, or, if they prefer, start filming right away.

Record

Record the witness. Do your best to keep the camera or phone steady. If you have one, feel free to use a tripod or other type of support. Focus the camera on the speaker's shoulders and head, that way you will be close enough to capture facial expressions and hear the speaker clearly.

Review

Play the witness back for the speaker. If both of you are satisfied, move on. Otherwise, give the speaker an opportunity to try again.

Share

Forward the video to the person who manages your parish, shrine, school, campus ministry or ecclesial ministry website and/or social media accounts to post. The "witness" may want to share it to their social media as well. The more people we share our witness with the better!