

Statement on the Eucharistic Sacrifice from the Answer  
to Pope Leo XIII by the Archbishops of England, 1897

Section XI ..... But we answer..... that we make provision with the greatest reverence for the consecration of the holy Eucharist and commit it only to properly ordained Priests and to no other ministers of the Church. Further, we truly teach the doctrine of Eucharistic sacrifice and do not believe it to be a 'nude commemoration of the sacrifice of the Cross' an opinion which seems to be attributed to us by the quotation made from the Council (sc. Trent). But we think it sufficient in the Liturgy which we use in celebrating the holy Eucharist - while lifting up our hearts to the Lord, and when now consecrating the gifts already offered that they may become to us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, - to signify the sacrifice which is offered at that point of the service in such terms as these. We continue a perpetual memory of the precious death of Christ, who is our Advocate with the Father and the propitiation for our sins according to his precept until His coming again. For first we offer the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; then next we plead and represent before the Father the sacrifice of the cross, and by it we confidently entreat remission of sins and all other benefits of the Lord's passion for all the whole Church; and lastly we offer the sacrifice of ourselves to the Creator of all things which we have already signified by the oblations of His creatures. This whole action in which the people has necessarily to take part with the Priest, we are accustomed to call the Eucharistic sacrifice.