

Lesson 4 – The Mass; Our Participation in the Work of God

1. Christ Presence; At Mass or the Lord's Supper the People of God is called together, with a Priest presiding and acting in the person of Christ, to celebrate the memorial of the Lord or Eucharistic Sacrifice. In an outstanding way there applies to such a local gathering of the holy Church the promise of Christ: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Mt 18:20). For in the celebration of Mass, in which the Sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated, Christ is really present in (1) the very assembly gathered in his name, (2) in the person of the minister, (3) in his word, and indeed substantially and uninterruptedly under the (4) Eucharistic species. (GIRM 27)

2. The Functions of the People of God In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a people of God's own possession and a royal Priesthood, so that they may give thanks to God and offer the unblemished sacrificial Victim not only by means of the hands of the Priest but also together with him and so that they may learn to offer their very selves. They should, moreover, take care to show this by their deep religious sense and their charity toward brothers and sisters who participate with them in the same celebration. (GIRM 95)

GATHERING – INTRODUCTORY RITES: (establish communion and dispose themselves properly to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist worthily).

- Sign of the Cross – Invokes God's Presence, confesses him as Lord
- Confiteor - Examination of Conscience-Repentance of our sins – General Confession
- Lord Have Mercy - faithful acclaim the Lord and implore his mercy
- Gloria - glorifies and entreats God the Father and the Lamb
- Collect - the Collect prayer is usually addressed to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit

STORYTELLING – LITURGY OF THE WORD (Christ is present in the proclamation and the preaching)

- 1st Reading – From Old Testament (thematically connected to the Gospel Reading)
- Responsorial Psalm – Our response to the God's Word (message) of the 1st Reading
- 2nd Reading – New Testament (typically an Epistle, letter)
- Gospel Reading – through their acclamations the faithful acknowledge and confess that Christ is present and is speaking to them and stand as they listen to the reading.
- Homily (Greek for "Explanation")
- Profession of Faith – purpose is to honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith.
- Prayer of the Faithful – exercises office of their baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all.

RITUAL ACTION/RESPONSE – LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preparation/Presentation of the Gifts (bread, wine, alms) – when I spiritually bring/join myself to the altar of sacrifice
- Eucharistic Prayer – Prayer of Thanksgiving & Sanctification; faithful offer very selves into unity with God and others
- Communion Rite – in accordance with the Lord's command, his Body and Blood should be received as spiritual food
- Lord's Prayer – Prayed as Jesus taught us
- Fraction Rite – The gesture of breaking bread done by Christ at the Last Supper
- Lamb of God – You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
- Lord I am not worthy that you should come under my roof – Only say the word and my soul will be healed

COMMUNION RITE - SENDING FORTH

- We receive Jesus, body, blood, soul, and divinity – Our spiritual nourishment

- The Mass (missa) Latin for “sending” to make disciples of all nations, teach them, baptize. Sharing God’s love and forgiveness of sins with the rest of the world. To be his witness, by fulfilling God’s will in our daily lives.

Sacred silence is also a part of the celebration. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration. For in the Penitential Act and again after the invitation to pray, individuals recollect themselves; whereas after a reading or after the Homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard; then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him. Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner.

3. Understanding Liturgy “ The Participation of People of God in the work of God” (CCC 1069)

1. Participation in Christ’s own Prayer to the Father (cf. John 17)
2. People of God, One enters into the People of God by faith and Baptism. (CCC 804)
3. Work of God - action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ.
4. Liturgy is an action of the whole Christ (Christ (Head) and His Church (Mystical Body))

Outline and Talk Notes

1. Jesus Final Meal “took the bread and said this is my body, then the cup of blessing and said this is my blood, do this in memory of me.”
2. It is not anything we can do, on our own, ... Come to the Mass
3. Four Main Parts
 - a. Introductory Rites
 - b. Liturgy of the Word
 - c. Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - d. Communion Rite
4. A participation of the People of God in the “Work of God”