

Notes from the Liturgist, Ace Tupasi

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Journey of Faith (Liguori Publications)

We celebrate the wondrous deeds of God in every celebration of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the second main part of the Mass.

Preparation of the Gifts

In the offertory or presentation of the Gifts, we express our participation by making an offering, bringing to the altar the bread and wine for the Eucharist and our monetary contributions for the needs of the Church and the poor.

The bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Christ. God, who is never outdone in generosity, returns to us more than we could ever give.

The Eucharistic Prayer

This prayer is the center and highest point of the mass. It's spoken by the priest but the prayer of the entire community.

Acclamation of Praise. All the faithful in heaven and on earth join in a song or chant of praise. The words of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy) come from Isaiah 6:3. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!" and Matthew 21:9: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.

Calling Upon God to Send the Spirit. The priest asks God to send the Holy Spirit to achieve a twofold conversion: changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ and conforming us into the image of Christ.

Institution Narrative and Consecration. The priest recounts the Last Supper: how Jesus took the bread, blessed it, gave thanks, and said: "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28).

In this moment of **consecration**, the power of the words and the action of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, made sacramentally present, under the species of bread and wine, Christ's Body and Blood, his sacrifice offered on the cross for all" (CCC1353). We call this the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Memorial Acclamation. The people proclaim "the mystery of faith" – that Jesus died for our sins, rose from death, and will return in glory.

Remembering. God's saving actions, accomplished in Christ, are remembered, not as past events but as events that continue to accomplish their effects here and now. Remembering isn't just a recalling of the past; it's making the past present in our midst. The bringing of the past into the present is what Jesus meant when he said, "Do this in memory of me."

Offering. The offering of Jesus is accompanied with prayers of intercession for the entire Church, living and dead. The priest raises the bread and chalice – a gesture suggestive of offering. It's no longer Jesus alone who is offered to the Father, it's now Jesus with the Church.

Great Amen. An enthusiastic "Amen" places the seal of the community's approval on all that's been said and done in the Eucharistic Prayer.

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