

The Mystery of the Eucharist and Evangelization

RECEIVING AND SHARING THE FULL CHRIST

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Prayer

Lord, God of infinite love, you sent your Son Jesus to enter our lives, save us, and transform us through the Holy Spirit. Your Son gave us the Eucharist to continue touching and transforming our lives. At Mass we celebrate God's Word; at Mass we unite ourselves with Jesus, our Priest, who gives you unending praise. At Mass, the Holy Spirit comes upon us to make us Christ's living Mystical Body. We pray that our desire to deepen our understanding of the great gift of the Eucharist might help us grow as disciples, see Christ's presence in our families and our parish, and empower us to bring Christ Jesus everyday into the world.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.



Purpose

“The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church”

- ❖ To help us understand the Eucharist better
 - ❖ To see the broad scope of the Eucharist
- ❖ To help us consider what receiving Holy Communion means
 - ❖ To show how the Eucharist points to mission



Three Major Sections

1) The self-gift of Jesus

2) Our response to the Gift

3) Sent Forth



Part 1: The Gift



Accompaniment #5

The Eucharist is the way the Lord accompanies us...

This happens most profoundly in the Eucharist.



Accompaniment is “Real” #5

- Christ’s accompaniment is “real” because it is “flesh to flesh,” or “real being to real being”
- As we need to eat for our very life, so we need the Eucharist for our very salvation




“Flesh”

#6

Christ comes to us as individuals but only because Christ has saved us as members of the Mystical Body, having become part of the people of god.



Jesus Mission #9



Jesus comes to give glory
to the Father by bringing
humankind to salvation.

This salvation is the
communion we have
in God's life and love.



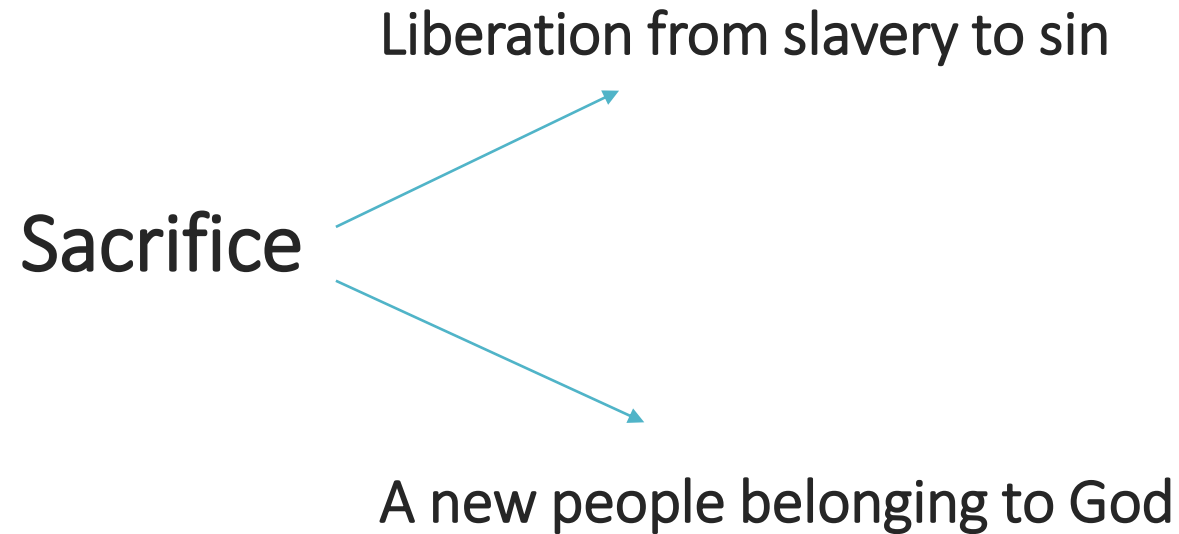


Scope of the Mass

- The scope of the Mass is God's desire to save all of humankind.
- Every Mass anticipates this universal vision;
- Every Mass is for all of humankind.



The Lamb #15



The Mass looks toward a new humankind transformed by our renewed relationship with God.

The Mass is a dimension of the Kingdom of God.



The Reality

#21

The bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus while maintaining the appearance of bread and wine.



Transubstantiation

- Related to “transformation”= the “form” or inner reality is changed
- The substance of the bread becomes the substance of the Risen Christ throughout the continuing appearance of bread.
- The “accidents” of the bread do not become the “accidents” of Christ.
- The Eucharist is a spiritual act that happens through the action of our bodily gestures.
- As the Bread and Wine are transformed, so also are we to be transformed.



The Signs

- The signs of bread and wine point to the reality we celebrate.
- The process of eating is a process of living and growth.
- The bread is united from the many grains of wheat.
- The process of eating is inherently social, from those who planted, grew the food, prepared the food, to those who eat it together.
- The sign of wine is a sign of warmth and joy. (Think Cana)
- What we do points to what the Eucharist is and who we are as a Eucharistic people.



Divine Presence

- The Risen Christ is “in heaven” but present throughout his Church.
- The Risen Christ is never apart from the “Holy Spirit” whom he sends to us.
- The Risen Christ is “uniquely” present in the Eucharist as a ratification of the many modes of Jesus’ presence: in the whole Church, in the congregation, in the Word of God, in the reciting of the Eucharistic prayer, in Holy Communion, and in the community sent forth.
- The Eucharist continues in our daily life.



Gift of Self #21

“In the sacramental re-presentation of his sacrifice, Christ holds back nothing, offering himself, whole and entire. The use of the word ‘substantial’ to mark the unique presence of Christ in the Eucharist is intended to convey the totality of the gift he offers us.”



Gift to the Church #25

- The intimate union that Jesus has with us is an intimate communion with all united with him—and, through Jesus, intimate communion with each other.
- The Eucharist makes the Church.
- The Church lives for the salvation of the Word.



Part 2: Our Response



Giving Thanks #30

“Eucharist” means the giving of thanks. Giving thanks is one of the most profoundly human acts that one can do.

God gives us the only complete way to thank him, by uniting our worship with the eternal worship of Jesus.



Gratitude #32-33

In the beauty of the Eucharistic
celebration itself

In our adoration of the
Eucharist outside of Mass



Transformation

#34-35

- In the Eucharist “we receive the grace that enables us to imitate the love that Christ shows us.”
- That love should permeate all our relationships (family, friends, neighbors) and even to society itself.
- The self-giving love of Christ makes us Church and “orders us” beyond our own visible community of faith to all human beings we are to love with “that very same love” that forms our communion with the Lord.



Christ's Love

Christ's love must be brought to every dimension of our lives, both personal and public.



Consistency in Love #36-43

our own personal, moral lives

to the poor

to the dignity of every person

to the cry of the earth

to the full establishment of the Kingdom of God



Conversion

The Eucharist consistently calls us to conversion, to a more total following of Jesus Christ, to deeper encounter with him and the God he is and reveals, to put the Kingdom of God at the center of our lives as God the Father calls us to do, and to live transformed lives through the Holy Spirit.



Sin

#45-47

- All sin is a sign of incomplete conversion, or reversal of conversion.
- All sins strain or brake relationships with God and others.
- A serious break in our relationship with God and others means that we are not living a Eucharistic life, we are in mortal sin. To participate in the Eucharist in mortal sin is “a contradiction.”



Eucharist Implies #48-49

- That a communion exists within the body of Christ: The Church.
- That we strive to live a moral vision that reflects the ideals of the Church.
- That our “visible communion” lines up with the invisible communion of universal love in Christ.
- That we examine ourselves in our consciences.
- That we avoid patterns of life that contradict our lives as disciples.



Reconciliation #50

God's mercy brings healing to us in our brokenness and sin.

We celebrate that mercy and accept that healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. which restores our relationships with God, the Church and others.



Food for the Journey #50-51

The Eucharist accompanies us on the journey of life, producing fruits of faith, hope and love, nourishing and strengthening us through the ongoing presence of Christ in our lives.

Saints throughout history have shown us this.



Sent Forth



Experiencing Love #56

- We are in need of the experience of Christ's love.
- We are “called to help the rest of the world” experience Christ's love.
- Jesus is sent as “salvation for the world.”
- The end of the Mass is our commissioning to go forth.



Images of Eucharist

“Manna” in the desert

The feeding of the 5,000 in the desert

The eschatological vision of the heavenly banquet

GOD WOULD FEED EVERYONE!



All the Baptized #57

“The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.” (Joy of the Gospel, 120)

*Baptism equips us to be part of the banquet, but also
to invite others to the banquet as well.*

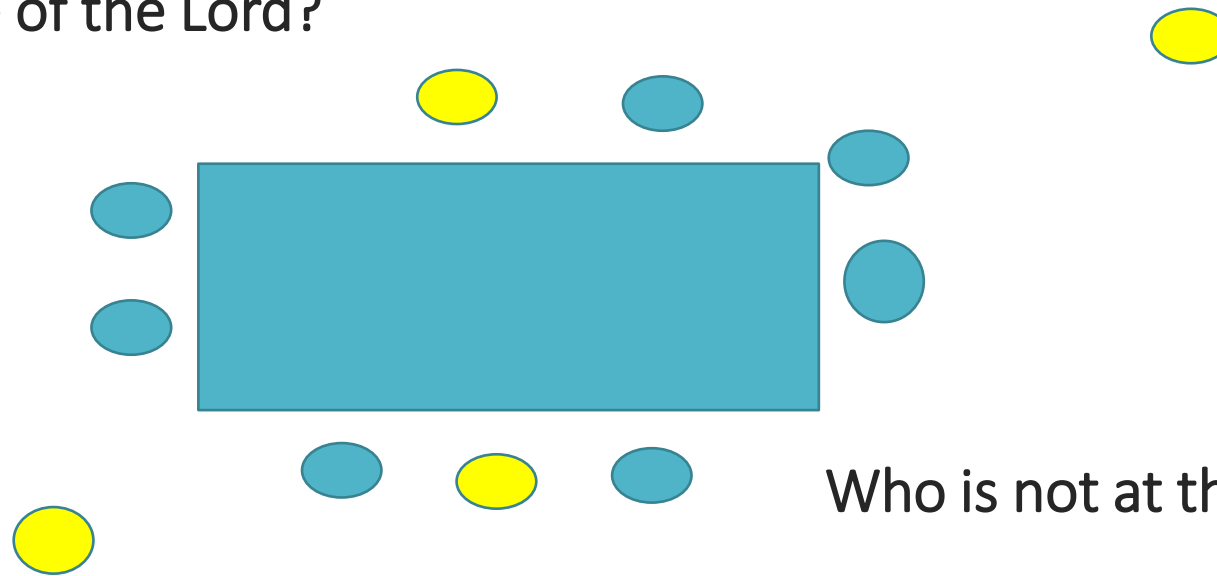
“Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries.’ but that we are always ‘missionary disciples.’” (Joy of the Gospel, 120)

*Being a disciples means we cannot hang out in church;
it means we leave the church to engage others.*



Table of the Lord

Who is at the table of the Lord?



Who is not at the table of the Lord?





How Do We Invite?

Encounter

Engage

Share

Listen

Accompany

Invite

Welcome





Living the Eucharist

Especially Appropriate during this
Period of Eucharistic Renewal.

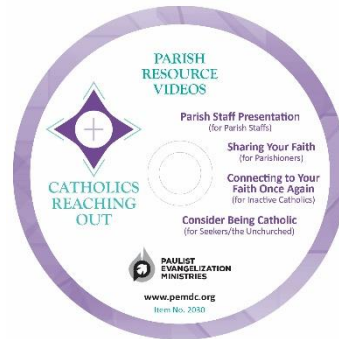
- During Lent
- Small Group Sharing (Spanish-English)
- Emphasis on Lectio Divina
- Daily Lenten Devotional Book

www.LivingtheEucharist.org



Resources

- *Living the Eucharist*
- Neighbors Reaching Neighbors
- Catholics Reaching Out
- Sent to Serve





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