

# Eucharist: Heart of the Church

## Session #6: The Eucharist and the Liturgy



May 17, 2010

### I. Review

- A. Eucharist as **Mystery of Faith**
- B. Builds the Church; Built on Apostles
- C. Ecclesial Communion
- D. Dignity of Celebration
- E. Mary, Woman of the Eucharist

### II. The Sacramental Economy

- A. We live in the “age of the Church, during which Christ manifests, makes present, and communicates his work of salvation through the liturgy of his Church...” (CCC, #1076)
  
- B. Christ acts through the sacraments and communicates (dispenses) the fruits of his Paschal Mystery in the celebration of the Church’s sacramental liturgy (CCC, #1076)

### III. The Liturgy: The Work of the Holy Trinity

- A. Father: Source and Goal of the Liturgy
  - 1. Blessing, applied to us, means *adoration and surrender to the Creator in thanksgiving*
  - 2. God blesses from the beginning
    - a. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, David, etc.
  - 3. Father as source and end of all blessings of creation and salvation
    - a. via His Word He fills us with His Blessings and pours into our hearts the Holy Spirit

#### B. Christ works in the Liturgy

- 1. He works (in all the sacraments) through signs (words and actions) accessible to our human nature.
  
- 2. “In the Liturgy of the Church, it is principally his own Paschal Mystery that Christ signifies and makes present.” (CCC, #1085)
  - a. He lives out the unique event of history, which does not pass away.
  - b. Christ’s Paschal Mystery “is a real event that occurred in our history, but it is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. The Paschal Mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is—all that he did and



suffered for all men—participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all.”  
(CCC, #1085)

3. Christ is present in the **sacraments**, in the **Eucharist** (especially), in the **priest/minister**, in the **Word**, in the **Church praying and/or singing**.
4. The earthly liturgy as a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy.
  - a. We are pilgrims who merely sojourn.

C. The Holy Spirit and the Church in the Liturgy (CCC, #1092)

1. The Spirit: prepares the Church to encounter the Lord
2. Recalls and makes Christ manifest to the faith of the assembly
3. Makes the mystery of Christ present here and now
4. Unites the Church to the life and mission of Christ

D. Eucharist as:

1. Thanksgiving and praise to the Father
2. The sacrificial memorial of Christ and his Body
3. The presence of Christ by the power of his word and of his Spirit

**IV. The Sacramental Sacrifice** (with emphasis on Thanksgiving and Memorial)

A. Eucharist also as sacrifice of praise in thanksgiving for the work or creation

1. All creation presented to the Father

B. “Anamnesis,” Memorial

1. Not merely the recollection of past events but the proclamation of the mighty works wrought by God for men
2. In liturgical celebration, these events become in a certain way present and real
  - a. For Jews, every time Passover is celebrated, Exodus events are made present to the memory of believers so that they may conform their lives to them.
  - b. Every time the Church celebrates Eucharist, She commemorates Christ’s Passover, and it is made ever-present.

**V. The Paschal Banquet**

A. Altar

1. Represents the altar of sacrifice
2. Represents the table of the Lord
3. Symbol of Christ Himself



**VI. Final thoughts:** “Give us this day our daily bread...”

## Questions for Small Group Discussion:

1) How has the Father blessed you?

Could you ever truly repay God for the good He has done for you?      Comment.

2) Does it seem “fair” that the central mystery of our Catholic faith has to do with “sacrifice”?

Do you at times feel that you *can't* sacrifice (joining with the sacrifice of Christ) to the Father?      Explain.

3) In what ways could you consider yourself an “altar,” having to do with *sacrifice* and *sustenance*?

4) Share at least one idea (per person) that has to do with how you as a member of the Body of Christ can build up the Body of Christ.

**We, the Catholic Community of  
St. Katharine Drexel  
are most grateful to Mr. Steve Kazangian  
for sharing his knowledge, his deep faith and his joyful self  
with us for these past six weeks!**

**Thanks to all who participated in this series.  
You are vital members of the Body of Christ!**

***Father John & Sister Dot***