

2022-2023 RCIA #17

2/13/23

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 27)

- The Mass
 - We Begin the Mass
 - What Makes a Sacrifice
 - Every Mass is Our Mass
 - The Mass Has a History
 - The Mass of the Faithful
 - Why Have Vestments?
 - The Roman Missal
 - Participating in the Mass

The Mass

- First, it is a memorial of our Lord-“Do this in remembrance of me,” This is the living presence of Christ at the Lord’s Supper, and on Calvary and the resurrection
- Second, it is a holy or divine banquet where our souls are fed with the Body and Blood of Christ
- Third, it is a sacrifice

The Mass (Cont)

- Sacrifices existed in antiquity with the father acting a priest
- Cain and Able
- Abraham and his family
 - Melchizedek
- Moses on Mount Sinai
 - Eldest son as priest
 - Levitical priesthood – Aaron, the brother of Moses

The Mass (Cont)

- Sacrifice
 - A gift offered to God in order to draw closer to Him
 - Requires a victim who is the gift offered
 - Must be a part of a social group worship
 - Must be performed by a priest
 - Christ is priest and victim
- Messianic period – the perfect sacrifice
 - Today the sacrifice to be offered is worthy of God because it is His Son
 - Everything else that we have are gifts from God

The Mass (Cont)

- The Mass is a:
 - Memorial – the Last Supper
 - Divine banquet where we feed on the “body of Christ”
 - Perfect holy sacrifice of the precious gift of God’s Son who acts as priest and victim
- The human priest acts in the person of Christ, in ***persona Christi***

The Mass (Cont)

- The four-fold purpose of the Mass:
 - Adoration
 - Thanksgiving
 - Petition
 - Reparation for sins

The Mass (Cont)

- When we give honor to God in the Mass we receive **three fruits**:
 - The **general fruits for those present**, the Church, the Pope, the bishop, all the faithful Christians living and dead and the salvation of mankind
 - **Special fruit** of the Mass applied to person or persons **for whom the Mass is offered**
 - **Personal fruit of** the Mass is given to **the priest** who celebrates the Mass for his sanctification and the reparation for his sins

The Mass (Cont)

- Parts of the Mass
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - Liturgy of the Eucharist
- The importance of:
 - Vestments
 - Vessels

The Eucharist Within the Mass

- The greatest of the seven sacraments where the actual giver of grace himself, Jesus Christ, is present
- A very profound mystery requiring Faith
- The Eucharist (presented at the Last Supper) is discussed in:
 - Matthew 26:26-29
 - Mark 14:22-24
 - Luke 22:19-20
 - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- St. John provides the theology for the Eucharist (which is closely related to the Book of Exodus) in Jn 6

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 28)

- Holy Communion
 - So Close to Christ
 - Who May Receive?
 - The Eucharistic Fast
 - Practical Pointers
 - Communicants

Holy Communion

- The Mass:
 - Provides a sacrifice which renews us via the sacrifice of the cross
 - Effects the soul by giving it grace
 - Is spiritual food which does for the soul what material food does for the body
 - Is a mystical and spiritual union
 - It produces its effect *ex opera operato* – by the sacrament itself not by any effort on our part or that of the priest

Holy Communion (Cont)

- Provides communion with Christ and our neighbor
- Is a decision of the will, not a feeling
- Produces spiritual growth by increasing sanctifying grace
- Remits venial sins
- Lessens concupiscence
- Preserves us from Mortal sin
- Readies us for work

Holy Communion (Cont)

- Who may receive?
 - Every baptized Catholic who has attained the age of reason
 - One who is free from Mortal sin – importance of frequent Confession
 - One who expresses the right intention in receiving it – not to please someone else
- The amount of grace we receive depends on the perfection of our disposition

Holy Communion (Cont)

- **Practical points for communicants**

- Be free of mortal sin
- Have a right intention
- Keep the fast (one hour before receipt of communion)
- We should dress in accordance with the dignity of Communion
- We may chew the host and must swallow it at some point

Holy Communion (Cont)

- We may receive Communion twice in one day under certain circumstances
- We must receive Communion at least once a year during Easter time
- We should receive Communion often
- We should end Holy Communion with a period of thanksgiving

Holy Communion (Cont)

- **Practical points concerning the Mass**
 - Bless yourself on entering and exiting the sanctuary
 - Genuflect when entering the pew for the first time
 - Make the sign of the cross on forehead, lips and heart before listening to the gospel
 - Shake hands to those immediately around you at the exchange of the peace
 - Look at Eucharist during the consecration
 - Make a slight bow before receiving communion
 - Reply “amen” before receiving communion on the tongue or in the hand
 - Genuflect when exiting the pew when leaving after Mass