

FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

EUCHARIST: THE WORK OF OUR REDEMPTION

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WEBINAR 1

Celebration *of the* Paschal Mystery: Theological Foundations

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Outline

1. Liturgical Formation of the People of God

- God chooses us, gathers us, guides us, nourishes and strengthens us, joins us to himself, bestows gifts upon us, calls us to service.
- We say “yes,” come together, listen, offer and give thanks, eat and drink, receive and discern, serve.
- The work of redemption is the work of God for us, and it is the work of God in which we take an active part.

2. The Work of Our Redemption

“Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in these mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through Christ our Lord.”

*Prayer over the Offerings, Mass of the Lord's Supper
The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Inc.*

3. Celebration of the Paschal Mystery

- paschal
 - Hebrew *pésakh / pésach*, often translated “pass over;” Latin *pascha*; English adj. *paschal*
 - The paschal mystery of Christ is his passing-over from death to life—indeed, to eternal life.
 - Our passing-over is a taking part in the salvific passing-over of Christ.

- mystery
 - something once hidden in God but now revealed to us by him; “some-thing” that is known by God but that is only known to us as God wills to reveal it to us
 - God revealing “some-thing” to us presupposes that God has already given us the grace to receive “what-he-reveals;” when God reveals “some-thing,” we see “what-he-reveals” with the eyes of faith
- celebrated in signs & rites
 - signs: creatures (e.g., water), works of human hands (e.g., bread, wine), human bodies (e.g., gestures, postures), words (e.g., words prayed, proclaimed, sung)
 - rites: groups of signs that place those signs in specific relationships as part of a whole

4. Formation for Eucharist, Formation by Eucharist

- Where do we see in faith through the Eucharistic action that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,” and continues to give himself, “so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16)?
- Where do we see in the Eucharist, with eyes of faith, our dying and being buried with Christ “so that, just as [he] was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Rom 6:4)?
- Where do we see that newness of life presently active for us and within us?
- We are striving for a greater openness, readiness, and capacity to engage in the creatures, works of human hands, bodies, and words—the signs of the Eucharist—so as to encounter God’s choosing us, gathering us, guiding us, nourishing and strengthening us, joining us to himself, bestowing his gifts upon us, and calling us to service; so as to say “yes” through them, to come together through them, to listen, to offer and give thanks, to eat and drink, to receive and discern, and to serve.
- When we take part in the celebration of the Paschal Mystery in this way, then we can truly be formed by liturgy.

5. The Eucharistic Celebration

- *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (see chap. 2, nos. 46-90)
 - full text online at usccb.org - <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/general-instruction-of-the-roman-missal>
- FDLC’s *Our Sacrifice of Praise / Nuestro sacrificio de alabanza*
 - available at fdlc.org/store - <https://fdlc.org/product/our-sacrifice-of-praise-nuestro-sacrificio-de-alabanza/>

5.1. The Church at Prayer: Introductory Rites (see GIRM, chap. 2, nos. 46-54)

5.2. Proclamation and Response: Liturgy of the Word (see GIRM, chap. 2, nos. 55-71)

5.3. Joining in the Sacrifice: Liturgy of the Eucharist (see GIRM, chap. 2, nos. 72-89)

5.4. Glorifying the Lord by Your Life: Concluding Rites (see GIRM, chap. 2, nos. 90)

6. May We Participate Worthily

Prayer for Liturgical Formation

adapted from the Prayer over the Offerings, Mass of the Lord's Supper

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that we may participate worthily in the Eucharistic mysteries,
for whenever the memorial of Christ's sacrifice is celebrated
the work of our redemption is accomplished.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

℟/. Amen.

Sources and Resources

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* *Pope Francis' General Audiences from November 8, 2017, to April 4, 2018, provide a catechesis on the Mass, beginning with the Introductory Rites and ending with the Concluding Rites.*

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