

PARTICIPATION OF THE HEART
DEEPER ENGAGEMENT IN THE MASS

September 8 – 10, 2023

Diocese of Portland

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WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO GO TO MASS? WHY DO YOU CHOOSE NOT TO GO TO MASS?

- I like it – I like the music – I like the priest – habit – to see my friends – obligation – we go to breakfast after Mass – my mom would kill me if I didn't go – I like the quiet – it pulls my week together – to thank God – to ask God for help – my friend is the cantor – I enjoy proclaiming the readings – I don't know
- I'm too busy – I don't get anything out of it – it's too long – it's boring – the music is awful – preaching is terrible – it isn't relevant to my life – I'm mad at the Church (priest, et al) – my family doesn't go and I don't like going alone – I don't know

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MASS?

- *CSL 10. Still the liturgy is the summit toward which all the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church's power flows.*
- *For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.*

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MASS?

- *From the liturgy, therefore, particularly the eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us as from a fountain; the liturgy is the source for achieving in the most effective way possible human sanctification and God's glorification, the end to which all the Church's other activities are directed. (CSL 10)*

GOD'S GLORIFICATION

- The Mass gives glory to God through the prayers, rituals, and music.
- God is glorious, which means full of magnificence or majesty.
- We give glory to God by giving God praise and honor.
- We acknowledge the great works that God has done and we ask for God's favor in our lives and in our world.
- As creator of the universe and source of every good gift, God is deserving of our adoration and praise.
- *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

HUMAN SANCTIFICATION

- BAPTISM: Committed to discipleship; Called to holiness:
Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. – Galatians 3:26-27

- Lumen Gentium 39:
It is quite clear that all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society.

HOLINESS

- “set apart for God”
- Created out of love by God for service to God and one another
- All ages, all walks of life, all vocations, all careers, all income levels
- We move from complete selfishness to selflessness: this is our lifetime’s work
- (Don’t get overwhelmed)

Lumen Gentium 31

But the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God.

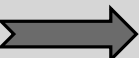
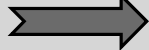









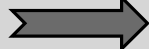
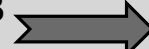
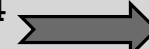
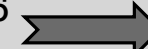
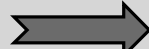


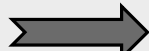


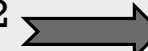


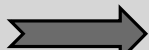
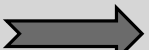
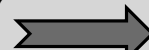
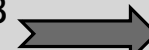
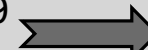

They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations.

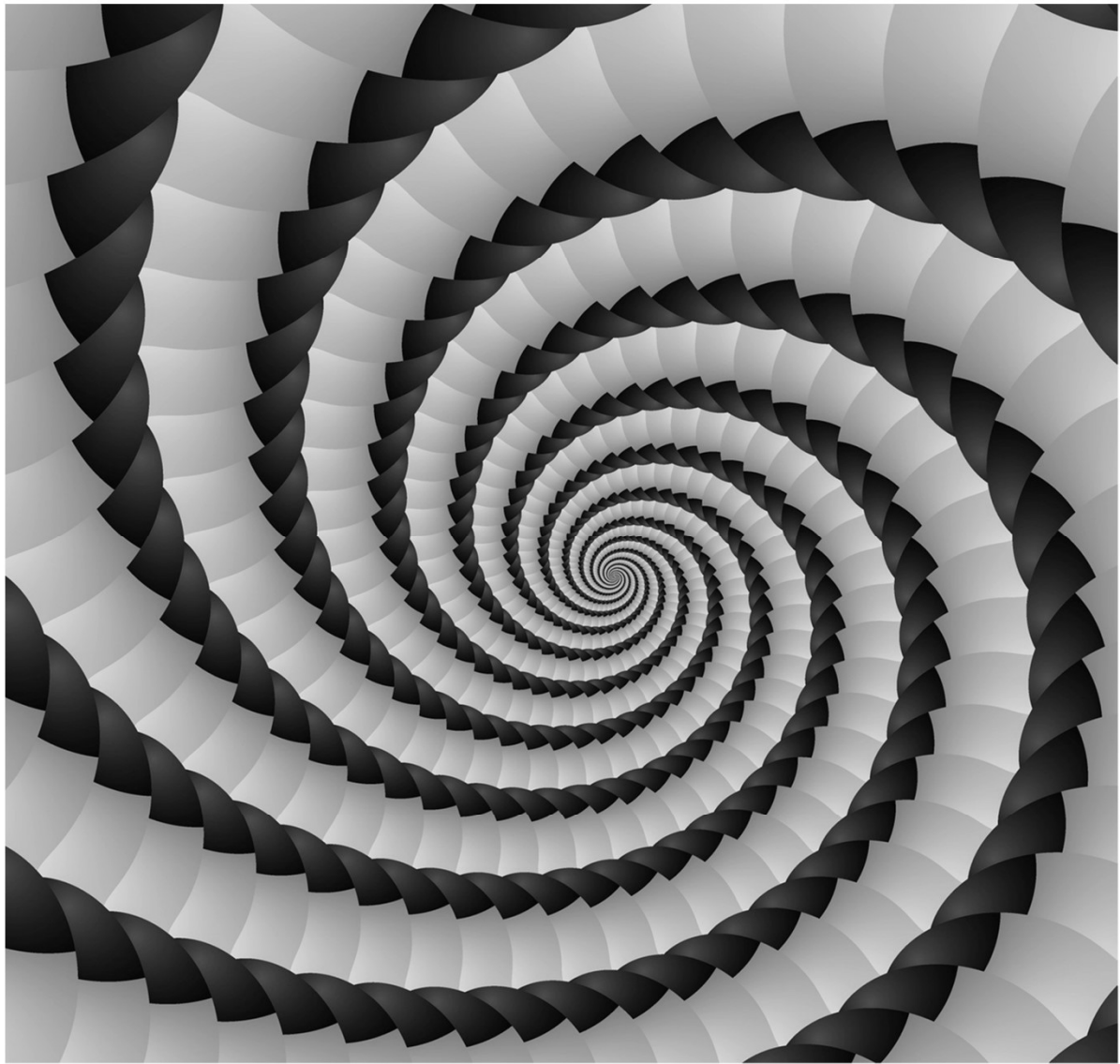
They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven.

They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven.

In this way they may make Christ known to others, especially by the testimony of a life resplendent in faith, hope and charity.

SUNDAY VERSUS THE REST OF THE WEEK?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 
3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 



WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT PARTICIPATION AT MASS?

Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy.

Such participation by the Christian people as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.

In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else;

for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit; and therefore pastors of souls must zealously strive to achieve it, by means of the necessary instruction, in all their pastoral work.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 14

MASS AND PARTICIPATION



PARTICIPATION INWARD AND OUTWARD

- “engaged” in the Mass – praying the Mass not praying at Mass
- praying, singing, responding, processing, listening, standing, sitting, shaking hands, eating, drinking
- working for the reign of God today in our midst
- living as Christ in the world, taking care of the poor and sinners
- living no longer for ourselves, but for God
- hearing the word of God and letting it take root in our lives
- meaning it when we hear “Body or Blood of Christ” and answering “Amen”
- in fact, every “Amen” joins us to the paschal mystery and is an act of commitment to work for God’s kingdom

HOW ENGAGED ARE WE?

- Participation of the Heart
 - Intentionality
- What are we learning from the Mass?

PARTICIPATION: LITURGICAL ROLES

WHAT COMES FIRST?

- For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”Matthew 18:20
- The role which we all have, and which all other liturgical roles come from, is the ministry of the community gathered together to give praise and thanksgiving to God and to grow together in holiness.
- What good is it to have a community of like-minded people?

SUMMARY SO FAR

- What is the purpose of the Mass?

God's glorification and human sanctification

- How do we participate at Mass?

Engagement; Inner and outer participation; Intention

- What is the primary liturgical role from which other roles spring?

The ministry of the people gathered together as the Body of Christ

SO MANY WORDS, NOT ENOUGH TIME DURING MASS

- Experience (We can reflect on the experience or NOT).
- Private prayer – bring words, symbols, and actions
- Methods from the book
 - Lectio Divina
 - Praying the text
 - Questioning the text
 - Being there
 - Using the senses

SIGN OF THE CROSS

- When did you learn the sign of the cross? Who taught you?
- Where and when do you see people make the sign of the cross?
- How often do you make the sign of the cross?
- Do you always say the words that accompany the action?
- What does it mean to “take up your cross and follow me?”
- What is your cross in life?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- Reading
- Psalm
- Reading
- Acclamation
- Gospel,
- Homily
- Profession of Faith
- Universal Prayer (Intentions)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

- Preparation of the Gifts and Altar
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Communion

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

- How does this action happen at your parish?
- What is the meaning of bringing the bread and wine to the altar?
- (What does it teach us?)

GROWING WHEAT

- Seed germination – wheat seeds sprout and form roots and shoots
- It requires **moisture and warmth**, and it starts when the seed absorbs water and ends with the first root's appearance. The optimal temperature for germination is from 53° to 77°, and the minimum water content required in the grain is 35 to 45 percent by weight. Wheat germination may take 3 to 5 days depending on the soil conditions.



Tillering – wheat plants produce multiple stems from the base

Stem elongation – wheat stems grow in length and internodes appear

Grain filling – wheat kernels develop and accumulate starch and protein

Ripening and maturation – wheat kernels turn from green to yellow and dry

Harvesting – wheat plants are cut and threshed to separate grain

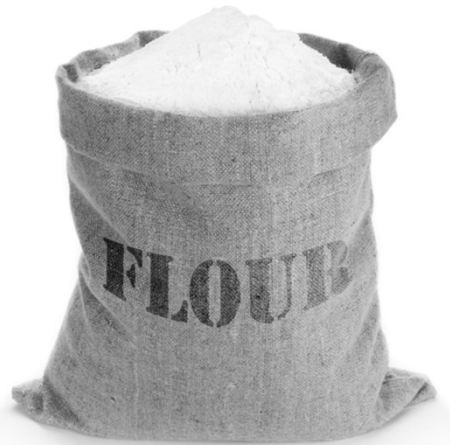
Cleaning and grading – wheat grain is cleaned of impurities and sorted by quality

Milling and processing – wheat grain is ground and refined into flour and other products



NOW WE HAVE FLOUR

- The flour is bagged, sealed, sent to the stores
- We go shopping; purchase the flour (and other ingredients)
- Preheat oven; mix dry ingredients; add wet ingredients; form loaf; bake [No yeast]



COMMUNION BREAD



SIMILAR PROCESS FOR WINE



THE WORK OF HUMAN HANDS

- Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:
fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.
- Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

SO, WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN TO ME?



IN SUMMARY:

- God provides the seed, the soil, the water, and the sun
- We work to nurture the plants and harvest them
- We make wheat and grapes into bread and wine
- We give them back to God with thanksgiving
- God makes them into something new: the Body and Blood of Christ
- We receive the Body and Blood, and we become something new – the Body and Blood of Christ in the world

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

- People are called out of the assembly to specific roles needed for the Mass.
- Ministry is service, but not “to do things FOR” people; rather “to be with” people - to be present caring for people, paying attention to them.
- Servanthood (even sacrifice) - willing to pay the price; sacrifice time and energy; willing to be held accountable; willing to give of self for the good of all; self-discipline.
- We do not volunteer to get OUR needs met, but to serve the community, to aid the community's prayer, to use our gifts and talents in praise of God, and to help this be a place where God can speak to us and to the community.
- We allow God to act through us.

SOME QUALITIES OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

- Servant mentality
- Competence
- Person of responsibility
- Person of prayer, formed by Scripture and the Church's life of prayer
- Kind and pleasant; open and approachable

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Which liturgical ministries have you done, and which one(s) are you doing now?
- How did you get started as a liturgical minister?
- What were your expectations when you started? Have you met your expectations?
- What have you learned from your ministry – about God, about yourself, about your community?

MINISTRIES

- Sacristan – Eucharistic Prayer, Offering, page 93
- Musicians – Gathering Song, page 35
- Greeters and Ushers – Gathering, page 33
- Readers – Scripture readings at Mass, page 51
- Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion – reception of communion, page 109
- Priests – Preface Dialog and Preface, page 81