

Liturgy series- Fr. Chad King- Presentation #2- What is the nature of our participation?

Last month, I talked about the definition of Liturgy that the Catechism gives- what was that definition? The participation of the people of God in the work of God. And last month, I talked about how the liturgy is the work of God, and went into what the primary work of God the Father and of Jesus is- do you remember what they were? The work of Jesus is offering Himself and all of creation (Why is His offering so effective- see Col. 1:16-17) to God the Father. The work of God the Father receives, blesses, sanctifies, and restores creation.

1108 In **every liturgical action the Holy Spirit is sent in order to bring us into communion with Christ and so to form his Body**. The most intimate cooperation of the Holy Spirit and the Church is achieved in the liturgy. The Spirit who is the Spirit of communion, abides indefectibly in the Church. For this reason, the Church is the **great sacrament of divine communion** which gathers God's scattered children together. Communion with the Holy Trinity and fraternal communion are inseparably the fruit of the Spirit in the liturgy.

(1068) For it is in the liturgy, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that **"the work of our redemption is accomplished."**

Mass is NOT just a time of me and Jesus, but 'we and Jesus'. All the people of God- the whole Church (seen and unseen) gathering and offering with Jesus the offering of Himself (ourselves) in the Holy Spirit to God the Father.

Eucharistic Prayer III: "You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly give you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a perfect sacrifice may be offered to your name".

Preface- With all the Angels and Saints, we praise you in this song of praise: Holy, Holy, Holy,....

...As we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son...we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice. Look, we pray, upon the oblation (a thing presented or offered to God) of your Church, and recognizing the sacrificial victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we who are

nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ

May he make of us an eternal offering to you- with Mary, Mother of God, Apostles, Martyrs, and all the Saints on whose constant intercession we rely for unfailing help. ... May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. ... To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at the passing of this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good”.

1071 As the work of Christ, liturgy is also an action of his Church. It makes the Church present and manifests her as the visible sign of the communion in Christ between God and men. It engages the faithful in the new life of the community and involves the **"conscious, active, and fruitful participation"** of everyone.⁹

1072 "The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church":¹⁰ it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful: new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity.

SC 14: Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demande d by the nature of the liturgy. ... In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy the full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else.

Pastors of souls should energetically set about achieving it through requisite pedagogy (method of teaching).

What was the Mass like (participation like) pre- Vat II?