

Liturgy series- Fr. Chad King- Presentation #3- What does it mean to participate in the liturgy today?

Think about what you know pre-Vatican II Mass was like for the laity- what were they doing?

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 demanded by the **nature of the liturgy**. Who remembers what the nature of the Liturgy is, that I talked about last month?

Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) in *Spirit of the Liturgy*: Participation sadly came to mean that as many as possible as often as possible should be visibly engaged in action.

SC 48- "Therefore, the Church earnestly desires that Christ's faithful should not be there as strangers or silent spectators. On the contrary, through a good understanding of the rites and prayers they should take part in the sacred action, conscious of what they are doing, with devotion and full collaboration"..."They should give thanks to God". How do you give thanks? "Offering the immaculate victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also together with him, they should learn to offer themselves"! This is Active Participation at its height. ... "Through Christ, the mediator, they should be drawn day by day into the ever more perfect union with God and each other, so that finally God may be all in all"

Inner nature of the liturgy is the people joining themselves to the paschal sacrifice of Jesus Christ, anything that does not lend itself to facilitate that is out of harmony with the nature of the liturgy. Everything I say, sing, do, wear, hear, look at should help us participate in and do the inner nature of the Liturgy.

"To promote active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of **acclamations, responses, psalms, antiphons, hymns**, as well as by **actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes**. And at the proper time a reverential **silence** should be observed" (SC 30)

Musicam Sacram 15- The participation **should above all be internal**, in the sense that the faithful join their mind to what they pronounce or hear, and cooperate

with heavenly grace. On the other hand, it should **also be external**, to show the internal participation by gestures and bodily attitudes, by the acclamations, responses, and singing. The faithful should be taught to unite themselves interiorly to what the ministers or choir sing, so that by listening to them they may raise their minds to God".

Does my **disposition at Mass** (state of mind/heart) **help me to offer myself**? Time we arrive for Mass. Do we think about what we say and do during the Liturgy?

Genuflect to Tabernacle when entering or leaving pew.

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Do we "**acknowledge (call to mind) our sins** and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries"? Do we heart fully ask for God's mercy- or just say the words?

Collect- more than opening prayer but a collection of our prayers.

Really listen to the readings? **Psalm** is not a song but a prayer of the people- how many are looking at the Choir and not really praying the Psalm.

At Gospel- **May the Lord be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.** "For in the Liturgy God speaks to his people, and Christ is still proclaiming his Gospel. And the people reply to God both by song and prayer" (SC 33).

During the **Creed- profound bow** (bow from waist) at "became man"

At the **offering**- gifts are brought to the altar. "**Offering the immaculate victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also together with him, they should learn to offer themselves**"! That is the perfect time to offer yourselves, offer the people, relationships, situations you want God to transform. "Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice **and yours** might be acceptable to God our almighty Father". We offer ourselves so that we can be transformed and get ourselves back better than before.

Preface- Priest: "Lift up your hearts" People: "We lift them up to the Lord"- **Do you really lift up your hearts to the Lord?**

My favorite gesture as the priest- bowing when saying the words of Last Supper.

Do **you listen to and pray the words of the Eucharistic prayer**- it's done out loud so that you can consciously pray with the angels and saints, praying for the whole Church? We pray for those scattered from the Church, for the faithful departed. Do you pray for them- your own family members?

If you don't **respond** what you should then you are not fully participating. Gloria, Creed, etc. Notice- the Our Father is the loudest- because everyone knows it, not everyone knows the prayers, know what to say. (Handout to help know the words). If you are not singing, responding, standing, sitting, kneeling at the right times with the others, you're not participating in the prayer of the Body.

Throughout the liturgy, whenever **name of "Jesus Christ", "Mary", or the Saint** of the day is said, all are called to bow their heads in reverence. (I want to become more like)

After Communion- **the most intimate time of Communion**- I wonder how many people are watching me purify the sacred vessels- waiting for me. If so, are they really praying conscious of the most intimate communion, praying for a deeper communion with our Lord?

In college, at Franciscan University of Steubenville- students didn't get up to leave right at the end of Mass, but knelt or sat in **private prayer of thanksgiving** for a couple moments.

Gathering/talking as friends after Mass in courtyard- sometimes seems the opposite now- gather/talk before Mass and leave immediately after.

Questions?