

{SC} CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY (SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM)
Pope Paul VI 1963

{CCC} Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Part)- JPII/Car.Ratzinger1992

Who is the primary celebrant/actor/do-er of the liturgy- me or you?

What does the word liturgy mean?

CCC 1069 The word "liturgy" originally meant a "public work" or a "service in the name of/on behalf of the people."

In Christian tradition it means the **participation of the People of God in "the work of God."**⁵

Through the liturgy **Christ, our redeemer and high priest, continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through his Church.**

The Liturgy- the Work of the Holy Trinity

1077 "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us before him in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**"³ (Eph 1:3-6)

1078 **Blessing is a divine and life-giving action, the source of which is the Father; his blessing is both word and gift.** 1079 From the beginning until the end of time the whole of God's work is a blessing. So the work of the Father in the liturgy is blessing.

1082 **In the Church's liturgy the divine blessing is fully revealed and communicated. the Father is acknowledged and adored as the source and the end of all the blessings of creation and salvation. In his Word who became incarnate, died, and rose for us, he fills us with his blessings. Through his Word, he pours into our hearts the Gift that contains all gifts, the Holy Spirit.**

1085 **In the liturgy of the Church, it is principally his own Paschal mystery that Christ signifies and makes present.** During his earthly life Jesus announced his Paschal mystery by his teaching and anticipated it by his actions. When his Hour comes, he lives out the unique event of history which does not pass away: Jesus dies, is buried, rises from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father "**once for**

all."⁸ His Paschal mystery is a real event that occurred in our history, but it is unique: all other historical events happen once, and then they pass away, swallowed up in the past. the Paschal mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all men - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all.

Paschal mystery celebrated in every liturgical year- week- day- every Mass. In fact, in every Mass we say the Memorial Acclamation- Priest says: The mystery of faith. You respond- (option 3): Save us, Savior of the world, for...

1112 The **mission of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy** of the Church is to **prepare the assembly to encounter Christ; to recall and manifest Christ to the faith of the assembly;** to make the saving work of Christ present and active by his transforming power; and to make the gift of communion bear fruit in the Church. I'll talk more about the role of the Holy Spirit in the liturgy next month.

1083 The **dual dimension of the Christian liturgy** as a response of faith and love to the spiritual blessings the Father bestows on us is thus evident. **On the one hand, the Church, united with her Lord and "in the Holy Spirit,"⁵ blesses the Father** "for his inexpressible gift⁶ in her adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. **On the other hand, until the consummation of God's plan, the Church never ceases to present to the Father the offering of his own gifts and to beg him to send the Holy Spirit upon that offering, upon herself, upon the faithful, and upon the whole world, so that through communion in the death and resurrection of Christ the Priest, and by the power of the Spirit, these divine blessings will bring forth the fruits of life "to the praise of his glorious grace."**

1089 "Christ, indeed, always associates the Church with himself in this great work **in which God is perfectly glorified and men are sanctified.** The Church is his beloved Bride who calls to her Lord and through him offers worship to the eternal Father."¹²

In Summary.

The Liturgy is primarily the Work of God... which we participate in.

SC7- "The Liturgy is the priestly office of Jesus Christ". "We have such a high priest, who has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister of the **sanctuary and of the true tabernacle that the Lord, not man, set up.** ... Now (on earth) every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices...they

worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, ‘see that you make everything according to the patterns shown you on the mountain’” (Heb 8). Our worship of God on earth, our offering of the offering of Christ, is meant to be a reflection, an image of the heavenly liturgy.

1090 "In the earthly liturgy we share in a foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. With all the warriors of the heavenly army we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord; venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, until he, our life, shall appear and we too will appear with him in glory” (SC 8). **Just as we need the Holy Spirit to teach us how to pray, we need the Holy Spirit, Angels, Saints, all the Church to teach us how to worship. Our liturgy on earth is a participation and a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy.**

In other words, the Liturgy is the now in Heaven, which we are called to participate on earth. If you want to go to Heaven, participate in Heavenly realities. When you get to see Peter at the pearly gates, he’ll ask: Are you ready for Heaven? Yes, I have been preparing for this every Sunday (every day) of my life!

Questionnaire for after Presentation #1- Please fill out and return to frchad@stgacc.org

1. Has this presentation aided in your understanding of the Mass? If so, how?
2. Have you ever been to a Mass in which you left thinking “that was other than anything else I’ve ever experienced”, in what ways has (or has not) that experience of the Mass been a reflection/image of that of the Heavenly liturgy?
3. How can we elevate our encounter and experience to be a better participation and foretaste of the Heavenly liturgy?
4. I’ve been asked, ‘are we going to have this and that in the new Church’, what would you like to see in the liturgy, and WHY? (Why is the most important part of your reflection and answer)
5. Are there any questions you would like to have answered in this series on the Liturgy?