

Mass Offertory: What Are You Bringing to the Altar?

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

We continue examining the HOLY MASS step by step:

We have just publicly expressed our assent to the Good News, God's Word, by our "Profession of Faith".

Knowing that God is our loving Father, and that He does not deny His children's requests, we now turn to Him and we offer our prayers of petitions, also called "Prayers of the Faithful".

In them we express our needs, those of the Universal and local Church, of our country, of the world, of the poor, of the sick and suffering, and finally we entrust to His mercy the souls of the Faithful departed.

All our needs and concerns, our intentions, including the members of our families, we now place on the altar along with the gifts of bread and wine, which have been brought in procession by members of the congregation.

The deacon (or the priest) at this point prepares the chalice by pouring a drop of water into the wine while saying a prayer: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ (symbolized by the wine) who humbled himself to share in our humanity (symbolized by the water).

The priest now says the blessings over the bread and the wine with prayers that are derived from ancient Jewish prayers still in use today by those celebrating the Sabbath: "Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation..."

The people respond: "Blessed be God for ever".

Since the priest and the baptized faithful participate in the priesthood of Christ - the priest shares in the ministerial priesthood, and the people in the common priesthood (CCC# 1546-1547) - the priest invites the congregation to join his prayer with the words: "Pray that MY SACRIFICE and YOURS may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father".

The congregation responds: "May the Lord ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE AT YOUR HANDS FOR THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF HIS NAME, FOR OUR GOOD AND THE GOOD OF ALL HIS HOLY CHURCH."

This response proves that we are NOT SPECTATORS, BUT ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS in the Holy Mass!

HOW ARE WE PARTICIPANTS?

By bringing the offering of ourselves - mind, soul and body - with the bread and the wine that will become the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHY?

For the PRAISE and GLORY of God's Holy Name, and for our SALVATION and that OF ALL HIS HOLY CHURCH!