

The Greatest Miracle

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

After singing HOLY, HOLY, HOLY with the Angels and the Saints, we now offer the most important prayer which makes the central part of the Holy Mass: the Eucharistic Prayer.

At this point everyone kneels, as a sign of adoration and worship. It is recommended to follow in reverential silence the prayers said by the priest. **THIS IS THE MOMENT WHEN THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, VISIBLE ONLY TO THE EYES OF FAITH, NEVERTHELESS VERY REAL, ATTESTED AND TOLD BY MANY WITNESSES WHO GLADLY GAVE THEIR LIFE AS A TESTIMONY.**

The celebrant priest addresses the prayer to God the Father, praising Him for His holiness and goodness shown towards his people, through Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

During the week, at home, it would be very beneficial to us all to choose any of the Eucharistic Prayers from our Sunday or weekly missal, and go through them prayerfully. You will feel the anointing and the power coming out of them, and transferring unto you as you pray them with open heart!

Here is a sample from the third Eucharistic Prayer, mostly used on Sundays: “YOU ARE INDEED HOLY, O LORD, AND ALL YOU HAVE CREATED RIGHTLY GIVES 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...

...WE HUMBLY IMPLORE YOU: BY THE SAME SPIRIT... THESE GIFTS... MAY BECOME THE BODY AND BLOOD OF YOUR SON OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AT WHOSE COMMAND WE CELEBRATE THESE MYSTERIES.”

The priest continues by describing the event of Jesus’ last supper with his disciples, and his words of consecration, when the bread and the wine he was handing out to them became his Body and Blood” as He spoke the words:

“TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.”

TAKE THIS ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.”

We then mentally join the priest in offering the “holy and living sacrifice” to God. We also pray for the Pope, Vicar of Christ, for the Bishops, the Clergy, and all God’s people.

We also pray for the those who have died and have gone before us.

The priest concludes the EUCHARISTIC PRAYER being offered to the Father through “Him”, Jesus, His Son. The priest proclaims solemnly or sings: “ THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM AND IN HIM, O GOD, ALMIGHTY FATHER, IN THE UNITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, ALL GLORY AND HONOUR IS YOURS, FOR EVER AND EVER.”

The RESPONSE by the people in the pews to this last proclamation by the priest is usually called “THE GREAT AMEN”.

It signifies the peoples' ACTIVE participation in the Sacrifice of the Mass: "AMEN - WE BELIEVE- WE OFFER OUR YES TO WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US BY DYING AND OFFERING HIMSELF IN OUR PLACE!"

That is what the AMEN means, and that is why it should not be a WEAK, TIMID response, especially when it is not being sung.

The story is being told that in ancient times the "Great Amen" resounded so much that it was heard from outside the church building itself!
Hence the term "the Great Amen".