

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE (11-12-23): NUMBER 2, PART 3, LESSON 27 – THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

PRAYERS

- I. “Signum Crucis”: “In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.”
- II. “Prayer to the Holy Spirit”
- III. Saint and Virtue:
 - A. Pope Saint Leo the Great
 - B. Respect

TRUE/FALSE

1. Offering sacrifice is unique to Judaism and Christianity.
2. Proper sacrifice signifies that God is the Supreme Lord and Master of the entire created universe and that man is wholly dependent upon Him for everything.
3. All the sacrifices of the Old Law derived their efficacy, or value, from the Sacrifice which Christ was to offer on the Cross.
4. The principal priest in every Mass is the ordained priest.
5. The Mass, though offered in a different manner, is the same Sacrifice as the Sacrifice on the Cross.
6. On the Cross, Christ gained merit and satisfaction so that we could be freed from sin and eternal damnation and given a home in Heaven.
7. What Christ gained on the Cross for our souls is applied at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
8. No Old Testament prophet foretold worldwide celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
9. The Sacrifice of Calvary remains limited to one place at one time.
10. The fruits of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass bless only those attending the particular Mass.

THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

- I. Mass = “The Sacrifice of the New Law in which Christ, through the ministry of the priest, offers Himself to God in an unbloody manner under the appearances of bread and wine.” (357)

“For from the rising of the sun to its setting My Name is great among the nations, and in every place, incense is offered in My Name, and a pure offering; for My Name is great among the nations, say the Lord of Hosts.” (Malachi 1:11, RSV)

- A. Mass = Same reality of the Sacrifice of Calvary appearing sacramentally:
 - 1. Christ = Priest and Victim
 - 2. Sacrifices throughout History—Cain, Abel, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Priests of the Old Law
- B. Principal Priest = Christ (offered as the Saving Victim by the ministry of the ordained priest in the Person of Christ the Head):
 - 1. Christ is the perfect Sacrifice, who offers His Body and Blood to the Father, out of love for Him and His love for us.
 - 2. The Father accepts the Perfect Gift:
 - a. On Good Friday—“Into Your Hands, Lord, I commend my Spirit.”
 - b. On Easter Sunday and the Resurrection
 - c. On Ascension Thursday, 40 days after the Resurrection
 - d. At Holy Mass, which perpetuates and applies the one saving Sacrifice through the Sacrifice of the Mass:

“Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, the glorious Ascension into Heaven of Christ, Your Son, our Lord, we, your servants and your holy people, offer to Your glorious majesty from the gifts that You have given us, this Pure Victim, this Holy Victim, this Spotless Victim, the holy Bread of eternal life and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.”

“Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once You were pleased to accept the gifts of Your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of Your high priest Melchizedek, a Holy Sacrifice, a Spotless Victim.” (Roman Canon of the Novus Ordo)

- C. As a Ceremony (Liturgical Rite), the Holy Mass perpetuates and applies the Sacrifice:
 - 1. Last Supper—Anticipates and applies the Sacrifice of Calvary—The First Mass celebrated by Christ
 - 2. Calvary—Offering of the Priest as the Victim
 - 3. Resurrection—Validation of Calvary’s Victory

4. Ascension—Kingdom on Earth extended from Heaven
 5. Mass—Perpetuation and application of the Saving Sacrifice:
 - a. Same Priest and Victim
 - b. Double consecration symbolizes death (Blood poured out from the Body)
- II. Purposes of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass:
- A. To adore God as our Creator and Lord
 - B. To thank God for His many favors
 - C. To ask God to bestow His blessings on all men
 - D. To satisfy the justice of God for all the sins committed against Him
- III. Fruits (Blessings) of the Mass (increased or decreased by the good or bad dispositions of each person concerned) are poured out upon:
- A. The celebrant
 - B. The servers
 - C. Those assisting at the Mass
 - D. Those for whom it is offered
 - E. All the members of the Church, including the Souls in Purgatory
 - F. All Mankind
 - G. Stipend offered for a particular intention (special intention)
 - H. Roman Canon—Intentions offered for the living and the dead
- IV. Mass = Sacrifice of the whole Christ—the Mystical Body united to its Head:
- A. Christ our Head offers us up with Himself:
 1. Our prayers
 2. Our works
 3. Our consolations and crosses
 - B. As the Father has accepted the Son's Sacrifice, so we accept the Sacrifice of the Son in Holy Communion, to unite His Sacrifice to our sacrifices, and our sacrifices to His Sacrifice:
 - C. Assisting properly at Mass:
 1. Practice reverence, attention, and devotion.
 2. Unite with the ordained priest as ordinary priests in offering Christ the Head and Christ in His members to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Come properly disposed to receive the Holy Sacrifice in Holy Communion.
 4. Participate and observe prayerfully, with the help of a missal and hymnal.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What are the obstacles to reverence, attention, and devotion at Mass? What can one do to increase reverence, attention, and devotion when assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?

QUESTIONS FOR FATHER JACK

MISSION/FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING