

6. Mission

Nourished by the word
and Holy Communion
we are sent forth
to be Christ's body in the world.

Go and announce
the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Listen to Scripture

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee,
to the mountain
where Jesus had arranged to meet them.
When they saw him they fell down before him,
though some hesitated.

Jesus came up and spoke to them.
He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth
has been given to me.
Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations;
baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.
And know that I am with you always;
yes, to the end of time.'

Matthew 28: 16–20

Our Experience

- What draws me to Christ? What causes me to 'hesitate'?
- What is my mission?
What is our mission?
- What helps/hinders us committing to it?

Read & Reflect

CELEBRATING THE MASS

217 After the Communion Rite, the Mass closes with a brief Concluding Rite. Its purpose is to send the people forth to put into effect in their daily lives the Paschal Mystery and the unity in Christ which they have celebrated. They are given a sense of abiding mission, which calls them to witness to Christ in the world and to bring the Gospel to the poor.

CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY

9 The liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church. Before people can come to the liturgy they must be called to faith and to conversion...

Therefore the Church announces the good tidings of salvation to those who do not believe, so that all may know the true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent, and may be converted from their ways, doing penance. To believers, also, the Church must ever preach faith and penance, prepare them for the sacraments, teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded, and invite them to all the works of charity, worship, and the apostolate. For all these works make it clear that Christ's faithful, though not of this world, are to be the light of the world and to glorify the Father in the eyes of all.

10. Still, the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church's power flows. For the aim and object of apostolic works is that all who are made children of God by faith and baptism should come together to praise God in the midst of his Church, to take part in the sacrifice, and to eat the Lord's supper.

The liturgy in its turn moves the faithful, filled with "the paschal sacraments", to be "one in holiness"; it prays that "they may hold fast in their lives to what they have grasped by their faith"; the renewal in the eucharist of the covenant between the Lord and his people draws the faithful into the compelling love of Christ and sets them on fire.

From the liturgy, therefore, and especially from the eucharist, grace is poured forth upon us as from a fountain; the liturgy is the source for achieving in the most effective way possible human sanctification and God's glorification, the end to which all the Church's activities are directed.

For Discussion

- Why do I think Mass ends in the way that it does?
- How does the celebration of Mass show me how to live?
- In what ways are we a community outside of Sunday Mass?

Act

- To consider how I can help my parish's celebration of Mass to more fully realise its potential.

Prayer

We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life — this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us
— we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1 John 1: 1–4

God of glory,
whose beloved Son has shown us
that true worship comes from humble and contrite hearts:
bless all of us as we hear your call
to serve the needs of our parish.
Grant that our service may be fruitful
and our worship pleasing in your sight.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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