

Message from Father Pergini:

After we profess our faith, the prayers of the faithful follows. The prayers of the faithful are addressed to Almighty Father through Christ. These prayers are composed based on the readings of Sunday but also on our daily needs as a parish, society, country, and the world. These intercessions may end trusting the Blessed Mother reciting one Hail Mary. It is a very moving moment of trust saying together "Hail Mary" invoking her help. Then the presentation of the gifts takes place followed by taking the collection. Pope Benedict XVI in his apostolic exhortation "The Sacrament of Charity" describes so significantly the meaning of the presentation of the gifts: "This humble and simple gesture is actually very significant: in the bread and wine that we bring to the altar, all creation is taken up by Christ the Redeemer, to be transformed and presented to the Father. In this way we also bring to the altar all the pain and suffering of the world, in the certainty that everything has value in God's eyes. The authentic meaning of this gesture can be clearly expressed without the need for undue emphasis or complexity. It enables us to appreciate how God invites man to participate in bringing to fulfillment his handiwork, and in so doing, gives human labor its authentic meaning, since, through the celebration of the Eucharist, it is united to the redemptive sacrifice of Christ." So beautifully explained this gesture when the priest standing before the Altar waiting for those who are assigned to bring the bread and wine that will become presented to the Father. After the altar is prepared by the priest for the consecration, the Eucharistic prayer follows. The Eucharistic prayer is the center and summit of the entire celebration. The Eucharistic prayer contains spiritual and theological richness handed down to us by the Church's living tradition. Every Eucharistic prayer expresses thanksgiving, acclamation, invocation of the Holy Spirit (Epiclesis), institution narrative and consecration, the prayer recalling to mind the passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ (anamnesis), offering intercessions and the final hymn of praise (doxology.) It is the most powerful moment of this divine celebration. The faithful are kneeling and focused what takes place on the Altar of the Lord. The only person standing is the priest who stands in the person of Christ. It is not a magic moment that one may expect flame or smoke suddenly appearing to impress or amaze the faithful. A humble faithful Catholic knows by faith what takes place at that moment when the Eucharistic prayer is quietly said by the priest. The priest is not supposed to make believe that we are in Passion Play. It is the moment when Christ himself commended "do this in memory of Me." The church with its members invoke the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by the human hands become the body and blood of Christ. The faithful should be aware that this unique moment of this divine celebration embraces all of them in the mystery of our salvation. Everyone at this point should experience that Christ is so close to us that none of us can imagine. During those moments of kneeling the faithful in that power of silence and peace is touched in unique way by the invisible power of Christ on the altar. In time of huge sexual temptations, Christ says to Saint Catherine of Siena: ***"I have never been so close to you as in this moment."*** And this is the moment when on the Altar Almighty Father through the unbloody sacrifice of His only begotten Son is waiting for you and me that we may discover within ourselves His closeness to us and the redeeming value of the Holy Mass. And this takes time, takes the time to be aware that this celebration is not a human action. It needs our faith to accept what God has revealed to us through Christ. Christ entrusted this sacrament of Charity to his Catholic Church and we by faith accept and experience its power. During these two thousand years, our Catholic Church continuous, and will continue to the end of time celebrating the Holy Mass for the salvation of the whole world. It takes time to realize that the value of the Holy Mass does not depend how holy or sinful the priest is when he celebrates it. The power, the redeeming value of the Holy sacrifice belongs to Christ and not to us. Only then we will be aware before whom we stand and whom we worship.

