

The Year of Faith

Catechesis on the Mass

The Eucharistic Prayer (Part II)

This week in our Catechesis on the Mass, we continue to look at the **Eucharistic Prayer**.

Each of the Eucharistic prayers have certain features in common:

- Each recognizes that our link to Christ is mediated through His Church which is hierarchical. Therefore, both the Pope and local bishop are prayed for by name.
- Each includes prayers for both the living and deceased members of the Church.
- Each invokes the prayers and assistance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints.
- Each prays that God the Father may find the victim which is on the altar, His Son Jesus Christ, to be an acceptable sacrifice.
- Each concludes with a formula which invokes the Holy Trinity, as we proclaim that through, with, and in Christ and in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor belongs to the Father.

This summarizes what the Church does when celebrating the Eucharist: as members of Christ's Body we are joined to him in the power of the Holy Spirit as He offers His very self to the Father as a sacrifice of praise.

To this all respond with the Great Amen!

Next week, we begin looking at the Communion Rite...

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