

THE BEAUTY OF THE MASS—PART 3

During the Mass, just as bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit whom the celebrant invokes and the words of Jesus Christ that the celebrant prays over the bread and wine, so also, in our communion with Christ, the same miracle is supposed to happen to us by the same Holy Spirit and the same faithful words of Jesus—we are supposed to be transformed into Christ's holy, real, divine presence—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity—to be “*missa est*,” sent out into the world, to make Jesus really, truly present in our world through our transformed lives.

All these titles tell us important truths about this most wonderful Sacrament that Jesus gave us—this perfect prayer that Jesus prays with and for us.

During every Eucharist, we believe that Jesus Christ is present in four profound ways.

- First, Christ is present in the congregation that gathers to praise and worship. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus said, “*Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.*”
- Second, Christ is present in the person of the priest who represents Christ the High Priest as the priest celebrant leads the Eucharist. The priests always act in “*Persona Christi*,” in the person of Christ.
- Third, Christ is present in the Word of God that is proclaimed and explained.
- And fourth, Christ is preeminently present in the bread and wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Christ.