



# Archdiocesan Program

## WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



## THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

### *THE CELEBRATION OF CHRIST MYSTERY*

#### **Biblical Reflection: Lk 22,14-20**

In the Symbol of the faith the Church confesses the mystery of the Holy Trinity and of the plan of God's "good pleasure" for all creation: The Father accomplishes the "mystery of his will" by giving his beloved Son and his Holy Spirit for the salvation of the world and for the glory of his name (Eph 1:9). Such is the mystery of Christ, revealed and fulfilled in history according to the wisely ordered plan that St. Paul calls the "plan of the mystery" (Eph 3:9) and the patristic tradition will call the "economy of the Word incarnate" or the "economy of salvation". (CCC 1066)



As the work of Christ liturgy is also an action of his Church. It makes the Church present and manifests her as the visible sign of the communion in Christ between God and men. It engages the faithful in the new life of the community and involves the "conscious, active, and fruitful participation" of everyone. (CCC 1071)

"The sacred liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church" (SC 9), it must be preceded by evangelization, faith, and conversion. It can then produce its fruits in the lives of the faithful: new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity. (CCC 1072)

The liturgy is also a participation in Christ's own prayer addressed to the Father in the Holy Spirit. In the liturgy, all Christian prayer finds its source and goal. Through the liturgy the inner man is rooted and grounded in "the great love with which [the Father] loved us" in his beloved Son (Eph 2:4). It is the same "marvelous work of God" that is lived and internalized by all prayer, "at all times in the Spirit" (Eph 6:18). (CCC 1073)

*"For it is in the liturgy, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, that 'the work of our redemption is accomplished,' and it is through the liturgy especially that the faithful are enabled to express in their lives and manifest to others the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church" (SC 2). (CCC 1068)*

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- **According to your thoughts and in your own words, what is Christ Mystery?**
- **We read in number 1073, that "liturgy is a participation in Christ's own prayer". How do you understand these words? How do you experience them in your own life?**
- **Aside from the celebration of the liturgy, what are other actions of the Church?**
- **What could you do so that your participation in the Sunday Mass has more impact in your experience of God, in your life, and in your relationship with others?**
- **In the Gospel of Lk 17:10, Christ teaches us to say: "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do." What are we obliged to do as Christians? What have we failed to do?**

**Further reading:** Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 1066-1075