



How Does the Liturgy Shape Our Lives? ~More on the new Roman Missal~

In active participation in the liturgy, our hearts must be open to being moved by the Holy Spirit present through the liturgical event. For instance, during the Liturgy of the Word, the scriptures are proclaimed. The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* states that these scriptural words become Christ the Word in our liturgical assemblies. Christ “is present in his word, since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church” (CSL, 7). It is Christ speaking to us, calling us to become better disciples, to become holy.

It is not only the scripture, but also other texts and rituals during liturgy that shape and educate us: The opening prayers, the Eucharistic prayer, the music, the space, the environment, the bread and wine transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, the consecrated oil, the baptismal water, and so forth. We believe that Christ is actively present in the liturgical event and sacraments. In liturgy, not only are our minds shaped, but also our hearts, our hands, and our feet in order to live what we pray in liturgy.

An example is the Eucharistic prayer. In the revised translation of Eucharistic Prayer II, we pray twice for the Holy Spirit to transform something or someone.

“You are indeed, Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.”

Therefore, the Holy Spirit changes bread and wine, and those who participate in Communion. The Eucharistic prayer proclaims that the Lord is holy and “the fount of all holiness”, a marvelous image of God’s overflowing love, goodness, and truth. God freely pours out holiness. In liturgy this holiness is offered to those who participate in order to grow in the holiness to which the Trinity calls us. And if we are to become holy in faith, we, too, must become fountains that share compassion, goodness and truth in our daily lives. To paraphrase Saint Augustine: We are to become what we pray.

Faith in God calls us to change our hearts. In liturgy, the Trinity calls us to holiness, strengthens our faith, nourishes us, and sends us hopefully changed in order to grow in communion, in unity with one another, and with God. The texts, symbols, music, space, environment, and gestures communicate God’s call to us to become what God intends: **his holy people**.

Keep watching the bulletin and our website for more information regarding the new Roman Missal!