

Liturgy Lessons: 2018



episode # 9: "Active Participation" (shown 10/6,7)

Pope Saint Pius X introduced the phrase "active participation" to the Catholic world in 1903. Vatican Council II used the term in the "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy." when it wrote, *In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else.*

Time has shown us that there is a challenge with the English translation. "Active" does not simply mean "doing things". We should become engaged fully, conscious of what we are doing, aware of the liturgy's beauty and richness. This participation is first and foremost interior. Like Christ, we offer ourselves from our hearts, completely to the Father. Only then can our participation be full.

THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

+ The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life." "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), n°. 1324*

IN THE TRADITION

The faithful need to be reminded that there can be no "active participation" in the sacred mysteries without an accompanying effort to participate actively in the life of the Church as a whole, including a missionary commitment to bring Christ's love into the life of society. *Sacramentum Caritatis, n°. 52, 55*

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

1. How can we become more aware of our internal participation in the Mass?
2. What words or prayers in the Mass find an echo in your heart and remain with you throughout the day?

Today's Liturgy Lesson is one part of a thirty three part package intended to help us understand and embrace our experience of the Sunday Mass. Past lessons will be available upon request.

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