

Liturgy Lessons: 2018

episode # 8: "Purpose of the Mass " (shown 9/30)



In the Catholic Mass, **the goal of our worship is quite clearly directed at the praise of God and the sanctification of the world.** In fact, the Church's ministers and faithful proclaim this at every celebration of the Eucharist:

Priest: *Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.*

People: *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

Some mistakenly believe that the goal of Mass is to develop community. While our tradition teaches that the greatest manifestation of the church is at Mass celebrated by the bishop with his priests, deacons, and all the faithful, this community, in fact, is a by-product of the authentic worship of God and care for neighbor.

THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

"The duty to offer God authentic worship concerns man both as an individual and as a social being."

CCC, n 2136 – the Catechism of the Catholic Church

IN THE TRADITION

You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests."

St. John Chrysostom, *de incomprehensibili*, 3

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

What can you do to remind yourself that participation at Mass is meant, principally, to praise God and pray for sanctification of the world?

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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