



THIRD EDITION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

BULLETIN INSERT #20:

THE LITURGY SHAPES OUR LIVES

As we prepare for the changes in the Third Edition of the Roman Missal we invite you to ponder some of the gestures and words that shape our liturgical prayer.

In order for the liturgy to shape our lives, to mission us “our hearts have to be open to the Holy Spirit present throughout the liturgy. For instance, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy is clear that the 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 the liturgy that shape us: the Opening Prayer, the Eucharistic prayer, the music, the space, the environment, the bread and wine transformed into the body and blood of Christ, the blessed or consecrated oil, the baptismal water, and so forth. Words, music, space, and rituals not only educate or inform us, but we believe, that Christ is active, is present in the liturgical event and sacraments. In liturgy, not only are our minds shaped, but also our hearts and our feet in order to live what we pray in liturgy.

In 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.*

The Holy Spirit changes bread and wine and also 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; to those who desire to grow in holiness. 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.

The Triune God invites us to be shaped in and through liturgy. The texts, symbols, music, space, environment and gestures communicate God's call to us to become what God intends: his holy people."

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THINGS TO DO OR PONDER

How you are being changed by the Sunday celebration of Eucharist?

To what are you being "missioned"?

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