

Session 9: Education for the Mass

Proposition Definition: Educate God's people on the beauty, form and meaning of the Mass, with special emphasis on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

- Include how individuals and families can prayerfully prepare for an encounter with the risen Christ in Word and Sacrament.

Other Key Points:

- It was clear from the 2022 Synod that many of the faithful of our Archdiocese wanted more education and formation in the Mass, and so Archbishop Hebda adopted it as our Year 2 focus.
- *Sacrosanctum Concilium* states, "for the liturgy, 'through which the work of our redemption is accomplished,' most of all in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, is the outstanding means whereby the faithful may express in their lives, and manifest to others, the mystery of Christ and the real nature of the true Church" (SC 2).
- It is in the context of the Church's liturgy, the Mass most especially, where the Church is manifested as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- Apart from local offerings in Year II of our implementation of Archbishop Hebda's pastoral letter, we also saw our nation unite in a three-year Eucharistic Revival, which included last summer's Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, drawing people into a closer relationship with Christ in the Eucharist and witnessing different forms and expressions of the Church's worship.
- Archbishop Hebda also suggested that you would consider attending Mass at a different parish to see the diverse beauty and yet substantial unity in the Mass. Regardless of where the Mass is celebrated or what language or music is used, it is always the work of the Holy Spirit to gather us into "one Body, one Spirit in Christ."
- In his 2022 Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, the Holy Father writes about the need to "rediscover the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration ... the Liturgy is the priesthood of Christ, revealed to us and given in his Paschal Mystery, rendered present and active by means of signs addressed to the senses (water, oil, bread, wine, gestures, words), so that the Spirit, plunging us into the paschal mystery, might transform every dimension of our life, conforming us more and more to Christ" (DD 21).
- In order to become properly disposed to the Lord's working in us through the Mass, we need to "once again become capable of understanding symbols," (Romano Guardini). The rich symbolism and rituals of our Church allow us to glimpse past this merely physical world into the realm of grace where God desires to encounter us, most especially in the Blessed Sacrament.
- "The world still does not know it, but everyone is invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb (Rev 19:9). To be admitted to the feast, all that is required is the wedding garment of faith, which comes from the hearing of his Word (cf. Rom 10:17) ... We must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way in the twists and turns of human living." (*Desiderio Desideravi*, 5)

Reflection Questions:

1. Where have you experienced liturgy in a new and powerful way? Why did it leave an impact?
2. What are three things you learned or re-learned recently about the Mass? When/where/how did you learn these?