



Ars Celebrandi

Liturgical Ministers and
Their Participation
in the Royal Priesthood

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Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland

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01

Attends to...

1. A Sense of the Sacred
2. Liturgical Norms
3. Significance of Outward Signs
4. The Harmony of the Rite
5. Liturgical Vestments/Vessels
6. Liturgical Furnishings
7. Sacred Space (Environment)
8. The "Why" and the "How" of *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and the *Order of Readings for Mass*

The Art of Celebrating

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02

Attends to...

9. Liturgical Seasons & Feasts

10. The "Language" of the Liturgy

- Words (Ritual Texts)
- Liturgical Music
- Postures & Gestures
- Silence
- Movement (Processions)
- Colors
- Sacred Art
- Architecture

The Art of Celebrating



But in order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their minds be attuned to their voices, and that they cooperate with heavenly grace lest they receive it in vain (see 2 Cor. 6:1). Pastors of souls must, therefore, realize that, when the liturgy is celebrated, **their obligation goes further than simply ensuring that the laws governing valid and lawful celebration are observed.** They must also ensure that the faithful take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite and enriched by it.

Sacrosanctum Concilium, 11

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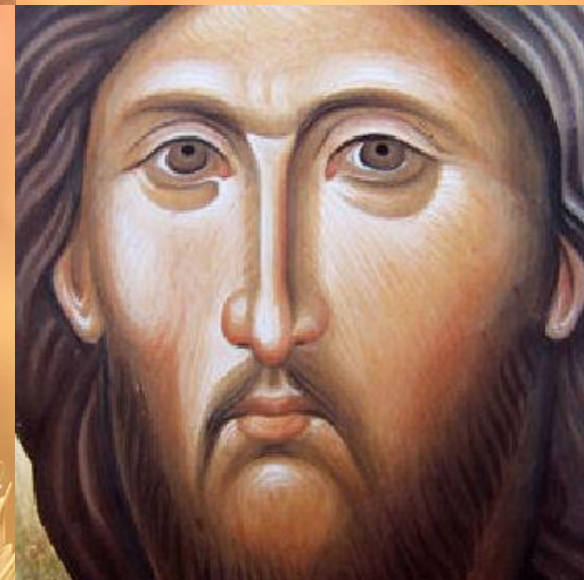


It is not simply about the perfect observance of the liturgical principles and rubrical norms found in the ritual books.

It is also and more significantly about the spirit of faith, devotion, and adoration in which the liturgy is celebrated.

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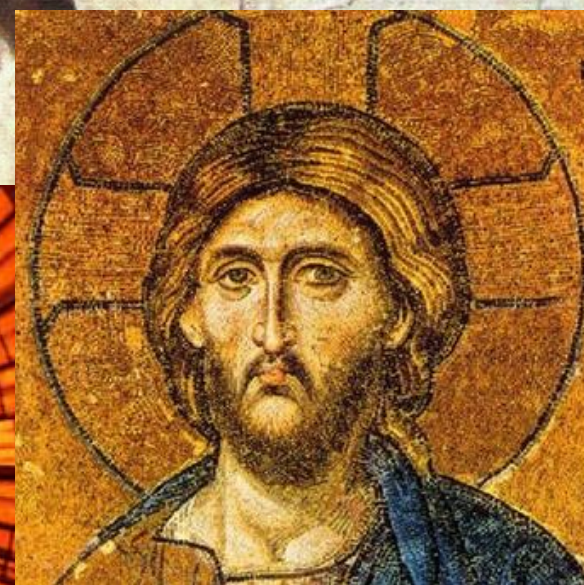
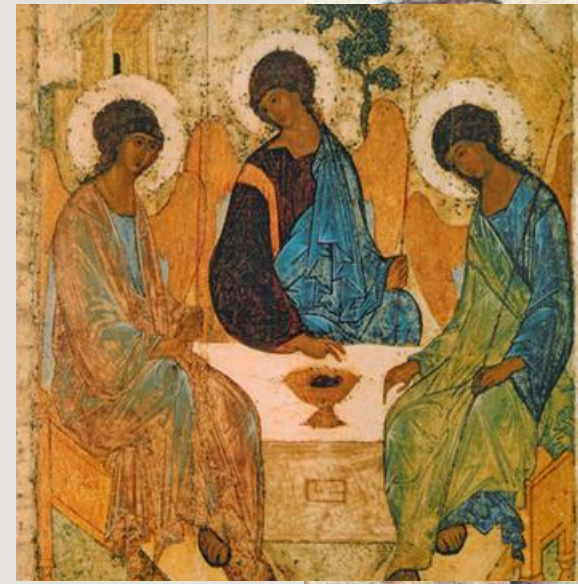
*begins
within!*



Pope Benedict XVI

“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

(Deus Caritas Est, 25 December 2005)



Encounter Leads to Intimacy

07

Spiritual progress tends toward ever more intimate union with Christ. This union is called “mystical” because it participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments – “the holy mysteries” – and, in him, the mystery of the Holy Trinity. **God calls us all to this intimate union with him,** even if the special graces or extraordinary signs of this mystical life are granted only to some for the sake of manifesting the gratuitous gift given to all. (CCC, 2014)



Intimacy Initiated by Jesus

- John 15:15 – “I call you friends...”
 - *Philos*= translated as “friend,” but this fails to capture the full meaning of the Greek word
 - “The one whom I love”
 - The disciples are Jesus’ *philo*i = **beloved**
- Connection to the Old Testament image and title: “the friend of God”
 - Abraham ... Moses ... prophets ... “whom God loved”



Patristic Image



- **Early Church Fathers**
 - **Natural properties of an iron bar – hardness, heaviness, smoothness, coolness**
 - **Place it in a fire and the fire’s heat transfers to the iron bar making it hot**
 - **Shared energy transforms the iron bar so that it transcends its ordinary natural properties**



What Happens to Us in Baptism?

- **CCC:**
 - **#1999 – “The grace of Christ is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it. It is the sanctifying or deifying grace received in Baptism.”**



What Happens to Us in Confirmation?

- **Collects from the *Ritual Mass*:**
 - ***“...that the Holy Spirit, coming near and dwelling within us, may make us a perfect temple of his glory...”***
 - ***“Graciously pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. ...so that... we may come to the full stature of Christ...”***

Roman Missal (Third Typical Edition)

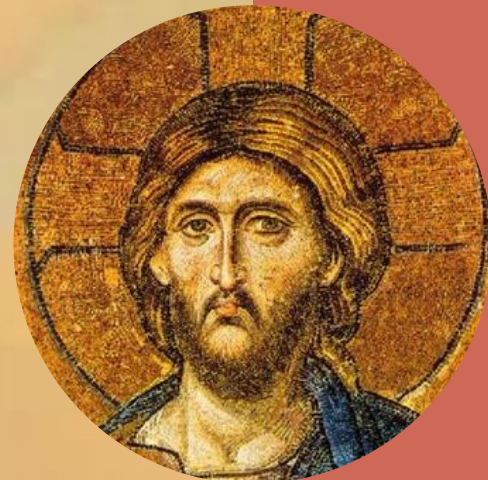


What Happens to Us in Eucharist?

- ***The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church:***
 - **In Christ, we are sharers in the divine nature (2 Pt. 1:4). The Church Fathers referred to this participation in the divine life as “divinization.” The eternal Son of God made this possible by becoming man and uniting humanity to his divine Person.**

USCCB, November 2021

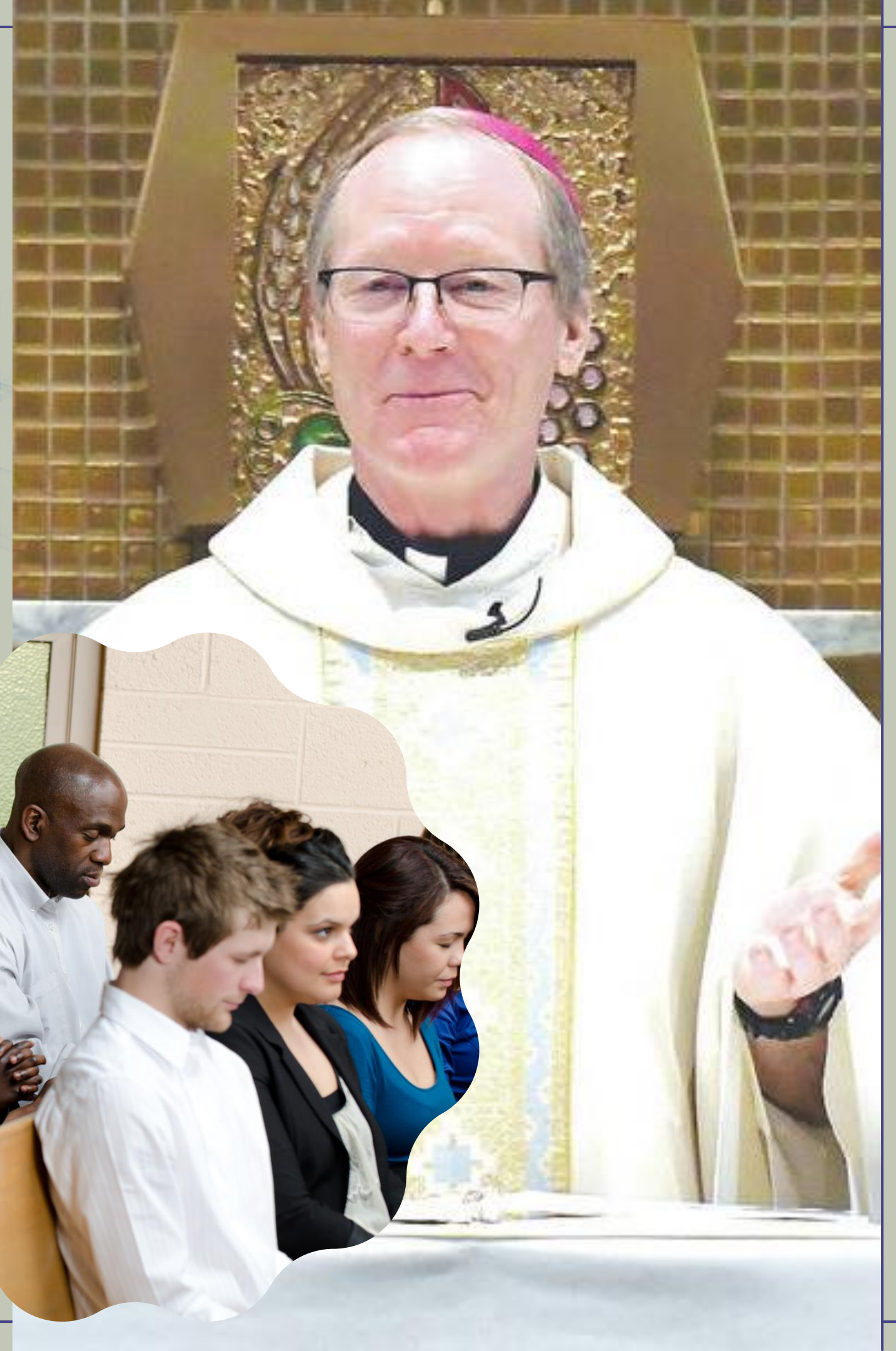
Eucharist as Encounter



- Begin with the conviction that I will encounter the presence of the living God in the celebration of the Eucharist
 - *Sacrosanctum Concilium, 7*
 - In the presider (and other ministers)
 - In the Word proclaimed
 - In the people gathered
 - In the sacraments, uniquely Eucharist

Relationship Grows from Encounter

- The liturgy of the Church is a privileged place of encounter – by God’s choice.
- Every liturgy – every sacramental celebration – is an encounter with the living God!
- We should walk out different from the way we walked in because of this encounter.



Liturgical Spirituality
for Liturgical Ministers

✦ *Ars Celebrandi*



Christ giving Christ to Christ.



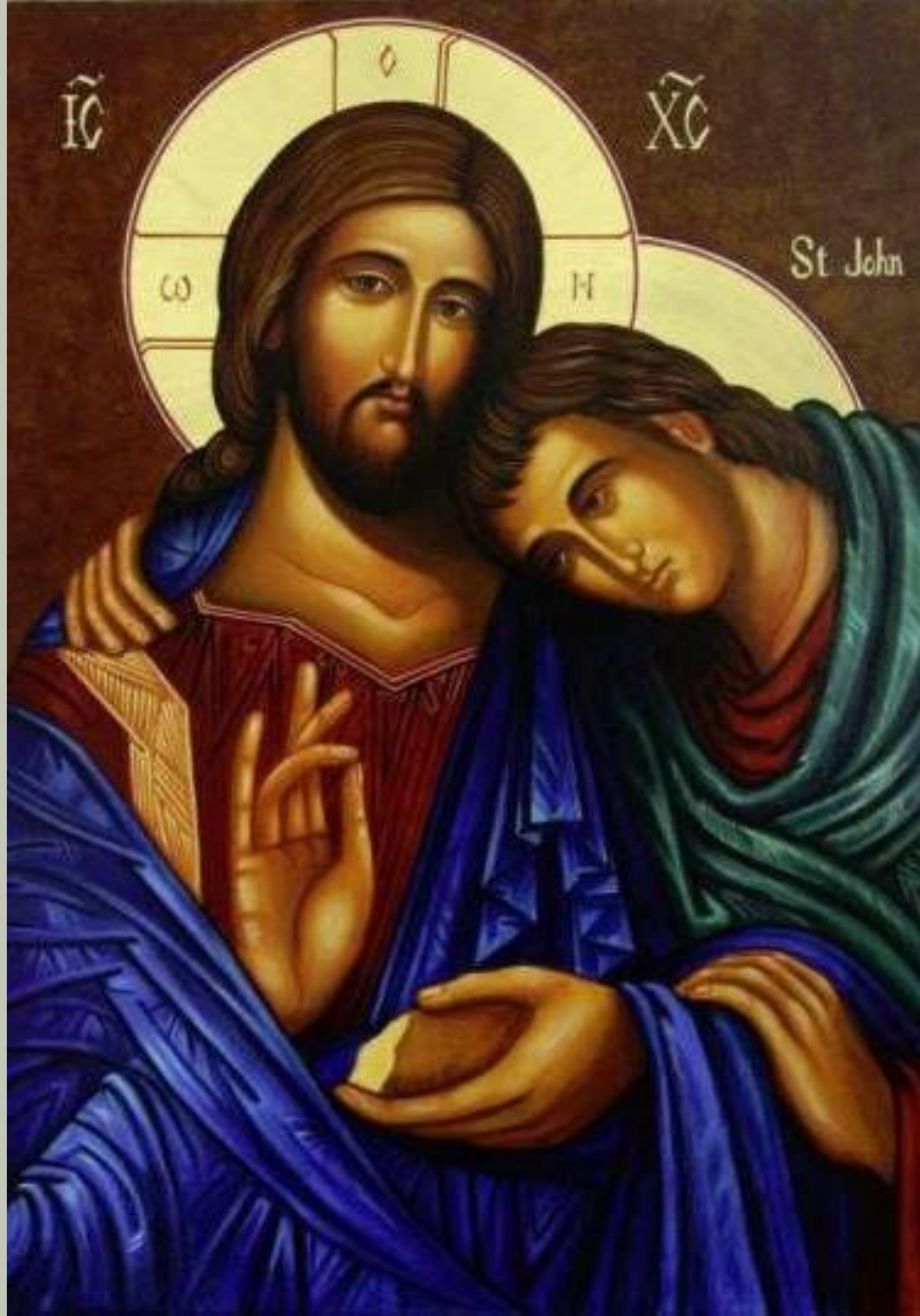
Christian sacramental initiation

- Easter homilies to the newly baptized
- “Behold what you are. Become what you receive.” (Sermon 57)
- “...say ‘Amen’ to what you are.” (Sermon 272)

We have become and are becoming Christ by grace.

- Which means ... we are called not just to celebrate liturgy/sacraments, but to become liturgy/sacraments.

St. Augustine (c.395-430)



The invisible God uses perceptible reality to be with us and to touch our lives...

- In love
- To transform us
- To inspire us to further action
- To move us toward our ultimate goal

In all this, human beings do not cease to be human beings.

- Dealing with divine and human interaction

As a Channel and Catalyst of God's Presence

“By the mystery of
this water and wine
may we come to
share in the divinity
of Christ who
humbled himself to
share in our
humanity.”



“..as you feed us
with the
nourishment which
comes from the
most holy Body and
Blood of your Son,
so you may make us
sharers of his divine
nature...”



Christ giving Christ to Christ

Christ the minister

EMHC, server, reader, music minister, usher, choir member, cantor, sacristan, deacon, presider, etc.

Christ the “sign”

Eucharist, Word, song, service, hospitality, environment, music, etc.

Christ the brother/sister

The members of the liturgical assembly (who are Christ for you and the world as well)

Becoming by participation





- Read and pray the scripture readings before going to Mass.
- Listen to the proclamation of the Word.
 - What do you hear?
- Listen to the homily.
 - How does it apply to your life?
 - How will you live the Good News?
- With family and friends, ask: What did you hear? What did you experience?

The Living Word of God

Life Lived as Offering



- **Bread and wine and more...**
 - **Offer yourself.**
- **See yourself as placed upon the altar.**
 - **Desire to be transformed.**
- **“Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God...”**

Pray the Great Prayer

22

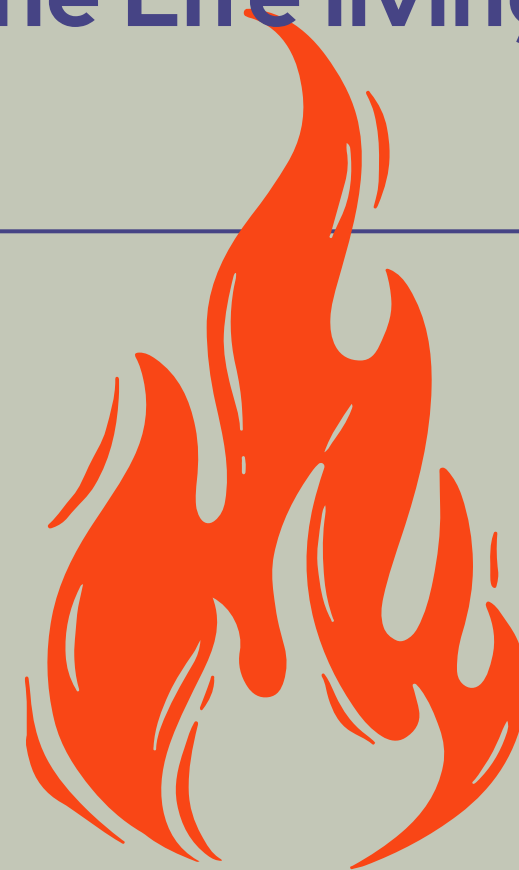
- “Lift up your hearts.”
 - Caught up into Christ’s prayer
- Listen and pray
 - “May He make of us an eternal offering to You...”
- Unity
 - “Amen!”





- Take and eat – take and drink
- Why did Christ give us the gift of the Eucharist?
 - To be with us (presence)
 - To join us to His ongoing saving activity (sacrifice)
 - To grow community (friendship)
- Pay attention to the Life living within you.

Indwelling



Mission



- Mass – dismissal – mission
- Choose to make a difference.
- Witness
 - How did you encounter the presence of the Living God in today's celebration of the Mass?



Become
what you
receive.

