



From the Pastor
32nd Sunday
in Ordinary Time - C
November 6, 2022

ORATIONS: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. In part 13 of our series on The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church US Bishops' document, we are reflecting on the 7th of 7 prayers used to

end **Benediction**. The 7 'themes' are: **Memorial; True God/True Man; Paschal Lamb of God; Heavenly Bread of Angels; Spirit and Truth; Life-Giving Bread/Viaticum; and Paschal Mystery Renewed.** Past articles on this **Revival**, the whole document, and the talk on the Eucharist by the Franciscan Friars , are on our Parish website: stjustin.org; click on **Eucharistic Revival Articles**.

Eucharistic Adoration Oration: 7 of 7

Lord our God, teach us to cherish in our hearts
the Paschal Mystery of your Son
by which he redeemed the world.
Watch over the gifts of grace
your love has given us and bring them
to fulfillment in the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WHAT IS THE PASCHAL MYSTERY? Soon after we fell into the sickness of sin, **God** promised a remedy for **Original Sin**, for all **sins**, and even for **death!** In the '**Proto-Evangelium**' or '**First Gospel**' **God** told the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel." [Genesis 3:15] Since **God** spoke in the plural, **Catholicism** believes this promise was fulfilled in **Jesus and Mary**, who conquered **Satan** through the **Incarnation: God becoming man**, and the **Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.** This reality is depicted in statues of our **Blessed Mother**, sometimes with the **Child Jesus**, crushing the head of a snake or serpent - and in the Mel Gibson movie, 'The Passion of the Christ.'

EUCHARIST 'RE - PRESENTS' THE PASCHAL MYSTERY. A common misunderstanding among **Protestants** - and even some **Catholics** - is that the **holy Mass** is merely a **memorial** and **NOT** a **sacrifice** - or that to call it a **sacrifice** means that **Christ** is executed repeatedly. That is why we use the term '**re - presents**' or '**makes present again**' the 'once for all' **Sacrifice** offered by **Christ** on the **Cross** AND at the **Last Supper's Table**. Here is how the **Bible**

explains it: "[We] have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering frequently those same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But this one offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God ... For by one offering he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated." [Hebrews 10:10-12, 14]

If we 'misread' or 'misinterpret' this quote, as some do, we could 'read into' the line "**once for all**" to mean that **all** are saved ... whether they want to be or not! **Catholicism** insists that we must actively accept for ourselves, individually, what was collectively offered for us, in order to be saved. The **Church** attaches conditions to this that could help secure one's salvation, such as one's ability to understand, cultural and societal pressures, the sins and faults of **Christians** that make the **Gospel** unacceptable, etc. So how is this "**once for all**" **Sacrifice** 'made present' for us?

While **ALL Christians** share in the **One Eternal Priesthood of Jesus Christ** through **Baptism**, those who are **Ordained** have a **unique** share in it. Both **Ordained Priests** or **Bishops** have a share in the **MINISTERIAL Priesthood of Jesus Christ**, which enables them to 'feed the flock' with the **Body and Blood of Christ**, which they confect in the **Eucharist**. [**Bishops** are further 'reconfigured' to **Christ the Head**, which empowers them to **lead God's Church**.] Through the mystery of what we call '**Transubstantiation**,' the bread and wine are consecrated or changed into **Christ's Real Presence**, thereby 'making present' the "**once for all**" **Sacrifice** offered on the **Cross** - in an unbloody manner. And since **Christ's 'Real Presence'** does not cease after the **holy Mass** ends, our coming into His presence - reserved in the **Tabernacle** - or exposed in **Eucharistic Adoration**, enables us to bask in the blessings He won for us!

Which brings us to the question **Jesus** asked His **Apostles** - and us - in the **Garden**, in the time between which He offered Himself at the **Last Supper Table** and then on the **Cross**: "**Could you not keep watch for one hour?**" [Mark 14:37b]

In Christ

Father Mark