



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I mentioned on February 18<sup>th</sup>, there are eight essential elements to the Eucharistic Prayer. We have made our way through the first four, and now will look at the other essential elements.

After the Consecration is the "Mystery of Faith." This is the *Anamnesis*. This literally means remembering. When we stop remembering, we forget. So we remind ourselves of the mysteries of our faith. But this remembering has the air of the Israelite remembering – it is not just a calling to mind, but a making present again what has happened. We say (or sing):

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Or:

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

After the Anamnesis comes the *Oblation*, or Offering. Again, we follow Eucharistic Prayer II:

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

You may have noticed in the Mass, almost all of the prayers are offered to the Father. Sometimes they are offered "through our Lord Jesus Christ... in the unity of the Holy Spirit," but almost always directed to the Father. This prayer is no different. We join with Jesus in offering Jesus to the Father. In this moment, everything we have offered in the Offertory and Preparation of Gifts, has been transubstantiated, and now is offered up to the Father.

The next essential element is the *Intercessions*. This makes up the bulk of the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer:

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and Peter our Bishop, and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

In these intercessions, among other things, we pray for the Church (including the Pope and our Bishop), those who have died, and for the intercession of the saints in heaven. Again, this is an act of faith and trust in the love of God who really hears and answers our prayers.

The Eucharistic Prayer concludes with the *Concluding Doxology* ("Through him, and with him, and in him...") and the Great Amen. Here, we ask that through, with and in Christ, all glory and honor might be given to God in the Holy Spirit. Here we "seal" the Eucharistic Prayer, giving God our assent to and belief in all that just happened.

Next week, we'll move into examining the Communion Rite, and the glorious grace that is Holy Communion.