

Discussion Questions for Video 5: Theology of the Eucharist

1. What were you taught a sacrament is? Share what was your understanding of sacrament, and how that influenced what you thought and how you participated in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.
2. This video shares a more general view of a sacrament as the “Touch of God”. Have you ever thought of Christ as the First Sacrament, and the sacraments extending his “Touch” through all time and space? Does this view of sacraments help you at all? Does it change the way you view any of the sacraments? Does it change how we might receive the sacraments? Share your views on these questions.
3. I like to teach that what the 10 Commandments are to the First Covenant, the Seven Sacraments are to the New and Everlasting Covenant. Using the passage from Jeremiah, Ch 31, verses 31-34, describe how the sacraments and the new covenant are different than the 10 commandments and the First Covenant.
4. Do you believe there is salvation outside of receiving the sacraments? E.g. Do you believe Baptism is necessary for salvation? Do you believe Eucharist is necessary? Are Christians who never receive the sacraments, but “Confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead,” (as is said in Paul’s letter to the Romans, Chapter 10, verse 9) saved?
5. We say that the Mass is “Transhistorical”. Have you ever heard that before? What does that mean? Can you discuss the “physics” of how that could be possible truly and not just imaginatively? Does this idea help you participate in the Mass differently? How would you explain that to others?
6. This video attempts to list what the Mass is. It claims the following:
 - a. A renewal of our Covenant with God,
 - b. The sacrifice of Christ made present once for all,
 - c. Our opportunity to join ourselves to Christ’s perfect sacrifice, making our offering to God acceptable,
 - d. Mana (to both nourish and guide us) in the journey through this desert of life, until we reach our promised land in heaven.
 - e. Worship of God, the way of worship God gave us,
 - f. A participation in the Risen Life of Jesus,
 - g. A joining in the heavenly and eternal liturgy of heaven.

Are there “things the Mass is” that was left off this list? Which of those really struck you as new or helpful? How will it change the way you worship? Please share with others about these questions.

7. At each of the parts of the Mass listed below; describe ways you currently think about and participate in the Mass, and then ways you can newly think about them so as to enter more deeply into the Mystery of the Mass. (For each part of the Mass some

questions for thought and discussion will additionally be asked to help you determine and share how you can enter more deeply into the Mystery.)

- a. **The Penitential Rite:** Do you call to mind your sins and ask for forgiveness? Do you feel forgiven by doing this? When do you “Have to” go to confession before you receive?
- b. **Liturgy of the Word:** Do you prepare during the week by reading, studying and praying the readings? Do you listen to just short phrases that strike you, or do you listen to the big picture? Do you get distracted by things you do not understand? Is the homily helpful? Is there usually a message you hear that you can carry with you though the coming week or beyond? Can you share any examples?
- c. **The Creed:** Do you view the creed as a renewal of your baptismal promises – a renewal of the covenant? Do you know where the creed comes from? Do you see it as more of a profession of your faith, or as a prayer, or both?
- d. **The Prayers of the Faithful:** Do you listen to the prayers and join in with the response? Do you add your own? Do you believe there is a difference between lifting up your prayers at this time verses alone at home?
- e. **The Offertory:** Do you join yourself to the offertory procession? Do you give in the collection as part of your offering to God and worship? Do you sing and offer your voice and spirit?
- f. **The Eucharistic Prayer:** Do you see it as being spoken to you by Christ? Do you see yourself at the Last Supper? Do you join yourself to the sacrifice of Christ in the prayer? Do you see Christ on the Cross? Do you see His sacrifice as that of a Priest, making sacrifice for you to join yourself to His sacrifice, offering yourself with Him to God in Love for others? Does it help to know that as imperfectly as you do this, He will make it pleasing to God?
- g. **Receiving the Eucharist:** How do you receive? Are you mindful and grateful and in awe when you receive? What do you do after you receive? While walking back to your pew? While back in your pew?
- h. **The Final Sending:** Does the Mass strengthen you for the coming week? Do you feel a commission about what to do in the coming week? Do you experience the “Cycle of the Mass” the sending, the doing during the week, then the coming back for a regrouping to be sent again? Can you share your experience about this cycle? Are there any examples of things you felt you were commissioned to do, went and did, and came back offering it to God, and thanking God, or having failed coming back to God in disappointment?