

*Setting the Stage Revisited- The Opening Prayer*

I would like to return to last week's topic of the Opening Prayer of the Mass. My explanation and reflections on it were *so good!* that even *I* paid attention to them, to the point that I will begin to practice more of what I 'preached' about the Opening Prayer. As I reflected on my reflections, I was particularly struck by how a period of silence is called for after the formal invitation to pray, *Let us pray*, to allow all those present to call to mind and heart the personal prayers, concerns, and intentions we bring to our Celebration. I recognize how, in fact, I typically allow very little time for that silence before I pray the Opening Prayer, which is meant to collect into one our personal prayers and intentions. So, this Sunday I will begin to really allow more time {at least 30 seconds} for silence between the invitation to pray, and praying of the Opening Prayer. I invite all to use that time indeed to lift up the hopes and needs you bring to the Mass, and to prepare to listen attentively to the Opening Prayer as it is prayed.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at [tkautza@saintmaryhc.org](mailto:tkautza@saintmaryhc.org).