

Our Need to Feed

Over the past twenty months we have reflected on all parts of the Mass, step by step from beginning to end, with some little side trips now and again. In a few weeks the focus of these reflections will shift to *What We **Will Be** Doing and Why?* in anticipation of the revised English translation of some of the Mass prayers we will begin using on November 27th, the First Sunday of Advent this year. But for the next couple of weeks I will offer some of my own thoughts on what I have gained personally from the closer look at the Mass in preparing these reflections. Of all the singing and speaking, processing and praying we do at Mass, there is one short, simple invitation to prayer that most stands out for me. It is the priest's invitation to the congregation after the gifts have been prepared on the altar: *Pray, my sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty father.* It is the "two sided" reference to "our sacrifice" here that says so much for me. On the one hand, our sacrifice at Mass is nothing other than the sacrifice of Jesus himself, given to and for us throughout his life, then fully and completely on the Cross. On the other hand, our sacrifice is also the living and giving of our own lives, after the example of Jesus' self giving. Just as Jesus gave of (sacrificed) himself fully and completely for the good of others, so too we are to give of (sacrifice) ourselves fully and completely for the good of others. Just as Jesus feeds us with his body and his blood, so too we are to feed others with the gift of our lives broken open and poured out for them. We need to feed others as we have been fed if we are to be faithful to the Lord, and our presence at Mass is to have any real meaning and significance in our lives. I hear all of this meaning and message of the Mass captured and expressed in the simple invitation prayed over the gifts of bread and wine, and the gift of ourselves presented at the altar: *Pray, my sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty father.*

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about.
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