

## REFLECTIONS ON THE MASS : RE-PRESENTED SACRIFICE

By Karen Pourbabaee

“Now and always, the mass involves a sacrifice, the presence of Christ and a meal,” states Marcellino D’Ambrosio in his book Exploring the Catholic Church. So let’s look at what he refers to as the “sacrifice that transcends time.” There is no other sacrifice except that by Jesus at Calvary. Hebrews 10:12 says that Christ “offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins.”

D’Ambrosio continues to explain : that sacrifice can’t be repeated, so the Mass is not a repetition or mere remembrance, but an actual re-presentation of Jesus’ sacrifice. Christ was a human, so His crucifixion took place in history and is past. He is also God who is outside of time, making past and future always present to Him. This means that his death and resurrection are eternal acts that can be made present by the power of the Holy Spirit.

At the Mass, we are there at the foot of the cross as our Savior gives His life . Since the cross is incomplete without the Resurrection, it is also made present at our Eucharistic celebration. God’s power is present as we find ourselves outside the open tomb with the risen Christ and the women who greeted Him there on resurrection morning. Indeed, the church teaches that every Mass is like a new Pentecost (CCC 739) where we can receive the power of the Spirit anew. “The power of Calvary-the sacrifice that takes away sins, heals, and transforms-becomes present and available to us. It can be applied to our need.”

At every Mass we are privileged to become participants in the live divine drama that brings life to our spirit, soul, and body!

Dear Lord,

As I come to Mass, may I sense Your presence as the Church gathers for the re-presentaion of Your sacrifice. Help me to come before You at each Mass in humble adoration and thanks ever aware of the live drama that unfolds before me and the blessings and power that I may receive from the Eucharist. Amen.