

REFLECTIONS ON THE MASS: THE SACRIFICE OF THANKSGIVING AND OFFERING

By Karen Pourbabaee

"Offering thanks to God and giving our whole selves to the Father together with Christ is what the Eucharistic sacrifice is about," states Marcellino D'Ambrosio in his book Exploring the Catholic Church.

Sacrifice is one of the three components of the mass that D'Ambrosio discusses. Besides the sacrifice of Christ, the Mass is also our sacrifice when we join our offerings to that of Christ. We can be active participants in the sacrifice of the Mass by expressing praise and thanksgiving as we thank the Lord for His sacrifice for us and our salvation. We can also add our thanks for personal blessings in our lives.

Another sacrificial action is to offer ourselves in response to His self-gift. According to Romans 12:1, we are commanded to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Our financial offering also represents the gift of ourselves and is an outward sign of our self offering. During the preparation of the gifts, we should be putting everything important to us on the altar...our time, ambition, desires, relationships, work accomplishments, family matters, trials, and temptations. When we add our offerings to the sacrifice of Christ we share in His sacrifice to the Father. When the priest combines water with the wine it symbolizes our life (the water) being absorbed into the rich sacrifice of Christ (the wine). What a privilege to become part of this divine gift to the Father.

Dear Father,

As I come to mass, fill me with the joy of praise and thanksgiving for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus, for my salvation and all the personal blessings I receive from Your loving hands. In response, may I find motivation to offer the gift of my life back to You as a living sacrifice. May all my earthly treasures and cares find place on Your altar. Help me to live a life of thanksgiving and sacrifice as I leave Mass and enter Your world. Amen