

# The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*“Now the center and high point of the entire celebration begins: namely, the Eucharistic Prayer itself, that is, the prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. The Priest calls upon the people to lift up their hearts towards the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving; he associates the people with himself in the Prayer that he addresses in the name of the entire community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the meaning of this Prayer is that the whole congregation of the faithful joins with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice.” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #78)*

## ***The chief elements of the Eucharistic Prayer:***

### **1. THANKSGIVING**

“.....Lift up your hearts”

The thanksgiving (expressed especially in the Preface), in which the Priest, in the name of the whole of the holy people, glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, according to the varying day, festivity, or time of year.”

(GIRM #79a)

### **2. ACCLAMATION**

“.....holy, holy, holy Lord”

The congregation joins with the heavenly powers in praising God.

### **3. EPICLESIS (*Calling the Holy Spirit to come upon our gifts*)**

“by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.” (*Eucharistic Prayer II*)

The Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by human hands be consecrated, that is, become Christ’s Body and Blood, and that the unblemished sacrificial Victim to be consumed in Communion be for the salvation of those who partake of it. (cf. GIRM #79c)

### **4. INSTITUTION NARRATIVE**

“For on the night he was betrayed, he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying: Take this all of you and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.” We carry out the Last Supper command of Christ to perpetuate the mystery of Christ.

### **5. ANAMNESIS (*The Church Remembers*)**

“we remember Christ’s Death....we proclaim his Resurrection and his Ascension to your right hand...” (*Eucharistic Prayer IV*)

The Church keeps the memorial of Christ by recalling his Passion, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. To remember in this liturgical act is to make present the one same mystery of Christ.

### **6. OBLATION or OFFERING (*Anaphora*)**

“.....as we await his coming in glory, we offer you his Body and Blood, the sacrifice acceptable to you which brings salvation to the whole world.” (*Eucharistic Prayer IV*)

The Church’s intention is that the faithful not only offer this unblemished sacrificial Victim but also learn to offer their very selves. (cf. GIRM #79f)

### **7. INTERCESSION**

“Advance the peace and salvation of all the world.” (*Eucharistic Prayer III*)

In union with the whole Church we pray for the Church and its pastors, for peace and unity, for the present community and for the dead.

### **8. FINAL DOXOLOGY**

“Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.” The praise of God which is expressed in the doxology is confirmed by the assembly’s “Amen.” Through their “Amen” the assembly makes the entire Eucharistic Prayer their own.