

Chapter 14 – The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ

Liturgy means the public work of the people. It always refers to an organized community. This holy work is not entertainment or a spectator event.

Liturgy is centered on the Holy Trinity.

Through the liturgical celebrations of the Church we participate in the Paschal Mystery of Christ.

Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

When the sacraments are celebrated, they reveal and make present the reality they signify. Since the Son of God honored us by becoming incarnate – the true visible image of the invisible God – we use signs and symbols to help us experience God’s invisible presence.

The Liturgy of the Word is part of all sacramental celebrations.

In the liturgical year the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation until the day of Pentecost.

Closely tied to the Eucharist is the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Liturgy of the Hours prolongs the Eucharistic celebration, and leads back to it.

Church buildings should be dignified enough to reflect the importance of what takes place there. While the church building is important, the worshipping community, “living stones built into a spiritual house,” is of great importance.

Reflection:

- What does it mean to say that the sacraments continue the presence and saving works of Christ Jesus in the Church and in our lives?
- How might you participate more fully, consciously, and actively in the Sunday Mass?