

## Encounter Christ in the Eucharist Eucharist: source and Summit of Christian life

The people of God are moved by the Spirit to the summit and source of their spirituality in the celebration of the Eucharist. Eucharist is the most intimate way of belonging to Christ. This is known as the action of the spirit: "if the spirit of God really dwells in you...you belong to Christ" [Romans 8: 9-10]. Eucharistic encounter of Christ is a dialogue moment for the human heart. Human heart speaking to the heart of Christ and in turn listening to the heart of Christ. Again the Spirit prepares the human heart to engage in such spiritual activity: "the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray but the Spirit himself intercedes for us" [Romans 8:26].

### Gifts Transformed

Bringing gifts of bread and wine to the altar represents our whole life. we receive gifts in return for personal, spiritual nourishment and energy for the world that surrounds us: family, neighbors, work place and events in world at large. Just as gifts transformed, our outlooks and attitudes of life are subject of reflection in the Eucharist. A renewal of intimacy and friendship with Christ happens each time the entire church body is united in the act of communion. Promises made in baptism and confirmation are reinvigorated in the reception of the Eucharist.

The prayers over bread and wine recognize man's labor, dream of a good harvest, gladness of the human heart in the abundance of nature's gifts through the grace of God. These gifts represent the whole of creation. In the Eucharist God is creating something new out of the first creation; this new creation is the body and blood of Christ. Faithful are partakers of this new creation [new reality]. This offering of gifts comprises man's daily work, prayers, marriage, children, hungers, suffering, fears and doubts. Sharing one bread, one cup, we support each other in life's trials and sorrows

### Call to service

Jesus said: "I am like a servant among you"! In the Eucharist, Jesus the servant offers himself, his love, forgiveness, healing grace, strength of the spirit, leading us to ever greater union with God. Self-gift of Christ the servant is reciprocated in our service to family and society.

Procession in to the church for Eucharist and out of the church at the end symbolize this call to service. Procession is from the front door to the altar and back through the front door into the world. It is in the church the faithful is baptized in the fountain of the baptismal water, anointed with the holy oils and gifted with the Holy Spirit to live a new life in the world, a life of service.

## Priestly people

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” [1 Peter 2: 4-9]. In the Eucharist, we as priestly people listen to the word of God, the word of light and give thanks to God for the gift of his Son Jesus Christ: ministers of the word of God, Eucharistic ministers, music ministers, all enrich our encounter with Christ in the sacred space of the church. At the climax of our processional entry into the church we approach the table of the Lord in order to be nourished on the body and blood of Christ. Then, into the world the faithful go to find Christ in others and bring others to Christ’s living and saving presence. Imitating the compassion of Christ is the essential characteristic mark of the Christian for daily practice of life. As we process out of the church to live our life in the world, the Holy Spirit stays with us as guide and counselor, helping us to be channels of Christ’s healing touch for the world.