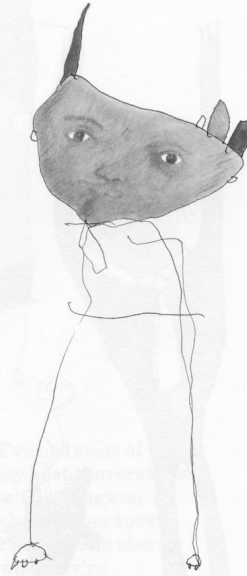


The Catholic Sacraments

This is a creature
on fire with love,
but it's still scary
since most people
think love only looks
like one thing,

instead of
the whole world

Creature on Fire



Reading - Story of the Passover: Exodus 12:1 - 14

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

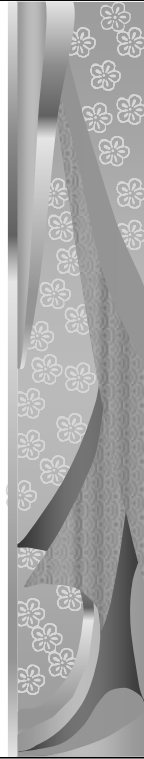
Discussion Questions

1. How is prayer/journaling going?
2. How do you think Jesus is a sacrifice (an act of self-gift in love) for our sins?
3. Do you think Eucharist is an event, a process, or a way of life?
4. Why do you think the Church offers Eucharist in both the bread and the wine?



Review

- Symbols & ritual are powerful tools for building community and our relationship with God. They express deep truths.
- Jesus is the foundation of Christian sacrament: *Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.*
- The church is the fundamental sacrament of Jesus.
- We are not using the word remembrance as an intellectual activity ("I don't remember where my shoes are."). It is a matter of bringing to the present an activity that is central to our existence so we can participate in it – so that we can be present, in the full sense of the word. It is re-remembering, building community and identity with those who have gone before us. We often use ritual to accomplish this.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ On the menu for today

- Getting a handle on sacrifice
- Understanding the Passover meal
- Christ's presence in the Eucharist
- Eucharist as communion
- Eucharist as covenant

■ Warning!

- We won't be able to fit all of this into neat categories that are easily explained. This is the summit of "mushy." Just try to keep the main ideas floating around in your head and you're doing well!



Must read file #9 (Symbol and Sacrament by Lawler, Chpt. 6) as preparation!

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ How do we define sacrifice?

- First we have to understand how OT priests used animals during religious rituals.
 - In temple rituals involving the offering of an animal, killing of the animal was *not* part of the ritual. It could be done by anyone as necessary.
 - What was important to these rituals was the blood of the animal, which in Jewish thought was synonymous with the life of the animal. All life belongs to God.
 - The blood would be poured at the base of the altar or on its four corners as public recognition of God's sovereignty over life and for the atonement of sin.

Read Collegeville Dictionary of Biblical Theology -- sacrifice

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ How do we define sacrifice?

- The NT (and even much of the OT) talks about sacrifice differently.
 - Sacrifice is an act of self-giving in love.
 - Jesus did this at the Last Supper
 - Jesus did this on the cross
 - Jesus does this through his resurrection
 - But we must also remember that Jesus did this his whole life.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ How do we define sacrifice?

- The Christian's act in offering the sacrifice culminates in fellowship that brings union with Christ. True sacrifice is dedication of self to God (Augustine).
- This inner attitude of reverence, honor, willingness and obedient giving over of one's life to God is the true meaning of the classic term offering or offertory.

– Peter Fink, S.J.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Ideas to look for in the preview video

“The Unleavened Messiah”

- Symbolism within in Passover
- The Jewish concepts of remembrance and ritual
- The importance of covenant

■ Discussion of video

- What do you think?



Discuss/ask questions about the ideas that we are supposed to watch for.

Is our discussion of remembrance and ritual consistent with Jewish tradition?

Passover meal notes. Gerr talks about three Jewish holidays, one of them Pentacost. The best I can tell, there is a Jewish festival 50 days after Passover named Shavous. Pentacost is supposedly “50” in Greek, so the two holidays (one Jewish, one Christian) have become intermixed in terminology. The 50th day is traditionally when Moses received the Law on Sinai.

The four cups of wine come from Ex 6:6-7. “*I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with outstretched hand, and I will take you for my people, and I will be your God.*” There is a fifth cup that is undrunk, the cup of Elijah. It represents the mighty work of God yet to be done (Ex 6:8)

Feast of Tabernacles (Jewish Antiq.), one of the three principal festivals of the Jews, lasting seven days, during which the people dwelt in booths formed of the

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

Remember our discussion about presence? How we can be physically present, but not *really* present to another person? To be really present is a self-gift.

- Presence only happens between persons.
- Presence happens because of communication.
- The real presence of Christ is a self-gift.
 - Our realization of Christ's presence is an act of communication between Christ and us.

The point of this slide is that no one makes Christ be present. It is his gift to us, but only "works" (is effective) if we are present to him.

Eucharist requires that we hold several ideas in our minds at once and in tension. There is no clear segue between the images of Passover and Christ in the Eucharist. Remember that symbols have meaning on many levels, and that the levels are not neatly organized.

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- So is there a “real” change that the bread and wine undergo during the consecration?
 - YES! But how?
 - Through a process termed “transubstantiation.”
 - Let's explain with an analogy ...
 - As Jesus would!



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- How are our bodies related to our presence, in the sense of when we give ourselves to someone else?
 - We smile
 - We make eye contact
 - We lean towards the person
 - We hug
- Through our body posture (symbolism), we indicate that we are present.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- At the Last Supper, Jesus uses the bread and wine as physical symbols of his presence after his resurrection.
 - He chose unleavened bread, nourishment "without sin."
 - He changed the way we experience this bread by equating it with his body.
 - He chose the wine in the cup of redemption.
 - He changed the way we experience this wine by equating it with his blood.



Don't dwell on this too long. We get into presence more on the next few slides.

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- “On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks and praise. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this all of you, and eat it. This is my body, which will be given up for you.”
- What is Jesus saying?
 - Body is not just the flesh, it is the whole person. This is “me,”
 - The bread is my symbol that tells you I am present.
 - By eating it we become one.
 - How does this happen?



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

The bread, when surrounded by people of faith in the ritual of the mass, takes on new meaning. It has a new purpose. It brings people into communion, into communication with Jesus, with the risen Christ.

It is no longer "just bread." *It is the way that Christ has chosen to make his presence – his real presence – realized when we participate in this remembrance.*

The bread has changed to something that connects us with our savior and makes him present to us.



So what about the cup?

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- "When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples, and said: Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."
- What is Jesus saying?
 - Blood represents life. By sharing this cup, we share in Christ's life. It is intimately and inexplicably intertwined with the Exodus, with Passover, the lamb, with reestablishing a love relationship with God. This is the fulfillment of the covenant on Sinai. This is a covenant of love.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- When we drink the cup we commit and renew ourselves to the new covenant – the covenant of salvation through the love of Christ.
- We also commit and renew our response to this salvation – living a life of discipleship.

(videotape)



Use the section titled “The proposal” on the Unleavened Messiah tape.
(4 minutes)

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- The emphasis thus far has been on Christ made present in the bread and wine.
- Christ is also present in the liturgy of the word, the priest, and the assembly.
 - Note: Remember how Steven Ger talked about Passover being an event for all the senses? Look for the parallel in the Mass.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- Christ present in the Liturgy of the Word
 - Christ is present in the Liturgy of the Word so that he can speak to our hearts.
 - This involves our listening. It is only in listening with our hearts that Christ's presence will be realized.

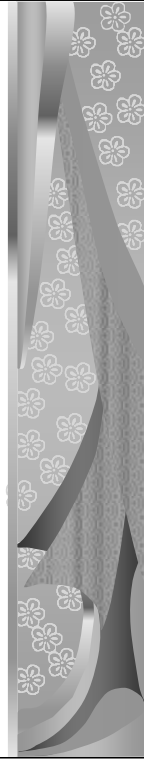


Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- Christ present in the priest
 - The presider embodies the Christ who bids welcome, gathers together, and invites us into His (Christ's) own prayer.
 - It is only by following that lead, by being welcomed, by being gathered, and by entering into Christ's prayer that Christ's presence will be realized.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- Christ's presence in the assembly
 - The assembly represents the continued incarnation of Christ whose mission remains to enter and transform human life, not to stand apart from it.
 - Only as life is transformed, and each of us reverences that life in each other, will Christ's presence be realized.



Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Christ's Presence in the Eucharist

- In the bread and wine
- In the liturgy of the word
- In the priest
- In the assembly

“Each mode of Christ's presence involves a different human dynamic. ...These four modes of Christ's presence cannot be reduced to or conflated into one; neither can the four modes of interaction with Christ be reduced, conflated, or confused.”

– Peter Fink, S.J.

Theology of Eucharist, The New Dictionary of Sacramental Worship



Human dynamics: taste, listen, welcome, mission

Eucharist

Outward signs that come from God to show God's favor.

■ Summary of Eucharist

- Eucharist is not a one-way street. It is not coming to church to get a token of grace from God. It is a loving, two-way relationship. We are required to be present. Christ is truly present. We listen to the Word. We offer our gifts to God. We re-member the Last Supper. We build our relationship with our savior. We are the Body of Christ. "Mass is ended. Go and serve the Lord!"

