

The Sacramental World (economy)

Church Christ continuum – The church is the continuation of the incarnation of Christ

Nature – Grace interconnection where nature is a fit receptacle for grace and grace needs nature to be embodied.

The Mass - Superlatives abound

The source and summit of the Christian Life toward which the other six sacraments, not to mention all the Church's ministry and mission, are ordainedⁱ

The whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself is contained in the Eucharistⁱⁱ

Terms

Eucharist – I give Thanks 1 Cor 11

Mass – Latin - Missi – you are dismissed – correlation with Mission

Transubstantiation – change in substance to be of the same substance (homogeneous) as Christ. (distinct from Aristotelian concept of accidents)

- The nature and timing of the change
- Ongoing – e.g. benediction
- Comprehended by only faith

The role of Liturgy – divine / human cooperation – the whole Christ

Key Themes

Thanksgiving to the Father, **Sacrifice** of the Son, **Presence** of the Spirit.

Thanksgiving and praise to the Father for all he has accomplished through creation, redemption and Sanctification

Sacrifice – a *memorial* of Christ's Passover

- Not just a subjective recollection of past events
- Nor a re-sacrifice of Christ
- But a memorial in which Christ's sacrifice offered once for all is made present by means of sharing in the atemporality of the divine nature
- Completes Christ's sacrifice by uniting it to that of the church

Presence

- Through the Holy Spirit – via transferred power in the apostles, bishops and priests
- Christ is present in the person of the minister
- Christ is present in the word of God
- Christ is present when the Church prays

- Christ is especially present in the bread and wine (the species) – the Real (fullest) presence – transubstantiation – human and divine presence

Benefits

- Augments Union with Christ
- Separates faithful from sin – cleansing from past sins and prevents future sins
- Commits the Church to the poor

Evangelical Assessment – John 6

Bringing Catholics to Church

Things to consider

Ways Forward

ⁱ Vatican II, Lumen Gentium 11

ⁱⁱ Vatican II, Presbyterorum ordinis 5