



# LITURGY BYTES

*by Michele Hall*



## *Eucharistic Prayer - Part 6*



In this part, we celebrate the memorial and become the offering. This remembering is a bit different because in other parts of this prayer we have already remembered Jesus' redemption. With Jesus' Body and Blood present among us, we remember what Christ did because now we are dedicating ourselves to making the very same offering. The whole Church is to make this offering in light of Christ. The Church on earth has a vocation. The Church is to become a Eucharistic offering for the world. Actually, at every Mass it is the Church herself who is offered in the Eucharist. This is not anything new because it goes back to the words of St. Augustine to the Church in Hippo. Briefly, he spoke to his people saying: "So if you want to understand the body of Christ, listen to the apostle telling the faithful, 'You are the body of Christ and its members'" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

Our deepest identity as the Church is not a gathering of like-minded, friendly folks who happen to enjoy the same things. Rather, the Church is Christ's Body given to the world. We remember this offering, and in the act of remembering, we become this offering again. We become God's self-sacrificial love for the world.

Keep in mind, it is not we who are doing this work but the Holy Spirit. It is important to note that the Spirit cannot work unless we give some part of ourselves over to the Spirit. This means we have to love one another and love the world. It is through the Spirit that we can accomplish this and through the Church where we experience this special love. At Mass, we receive total love and as a Church move out from the Eucharistic love of God.

Have a loving, blessed and healthy week ahead!