



Eucharistic Prayer - Part 7



The final two areas of the Eucharistic Prayer that we will look at have to do with intercessions for both the living and the dead and the final prayer or doxology that is chanted by the priest. In the intercession part, we pray that the Church might become the communion of love that we hope for. Familiar I am sure to most, we pray for the Holy Father, the Bishops and other clergy. We also pray that the Church on earth might become what she is supposed to be – a union of love, of peace, and of unity that renews the human race.

It is important to many of us to pray for our beloved dead. The communion of love that we share with the dead and with the saints, crosses the boundaries of time and space. No one is forgotten! We remember them to God, for they are still part of us. We can build a community of love in concrete ways as most of us do through offering individual prayers for family and friends or offering a Mass for the needs of a coworker or someone ill. These are real acts of love which help bring unity to all the world, the unity that Christ intended for the human family. We could say that it is the vocation of the Church in the world to bring this unity to all God's people.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic prayer, the Church prays the doxology: "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever." We respond: Amen. This doxology shows us that the unity that we want to build among the family is actually the unity of God: God the Father, who is the source of all love; God the Son, who is love made flesh, dwelling among us, teaching us to offer this same act of love back to the Father as children of God; God the Spirit, who is the very possibility of this return gift of love, the God who woos us in the interior of our hearts to love God anew.

I hope in these past six weeks you have experienced a better understanding of this beautiful prayer. I pray it helps us all to pray it better and understand its meaning!

Have a prayerful, blessed, and safe week ahead!