



LITURGY BYTES

by Michele Hall



Eucharistic Prayer continued



In continuing with our weekly reflections on the Eucharistic Prayer, we move after the singing of the Holy, Holy towards something the Church refers to as the epiclesis. This means the calling down of the Holy Spirit on the gifts of bread and wine. One of the images that has always caught my attention which occurs in the second Eucharistic Prayer is the reference to the dewfall. You might ask, what does that mean?

The reference to the dewfall is related to Israel being fed with manna in the desert. Israel complains to Moses in the desert that they have no food to eat. They say let us go back to Egypt, where at least we had food. They doubt God's generosity to care for them. However, in the midst of their doubting, God offers bread from heaven, the food of the angels to sustain them. He only lets Israel take enough each day for their needs, forming them to trust in the Lord. Tomorrow more will be given.

To ask the Holy Spirit to descend upon our gifts, just like manna in the desert, is to pray for God's generosity to become present once again. In other words, let these gifts that we have brought become for us your gifts that bring us closer to you. This image of the dewfall should also remind us, especially in the summer when there are droughts and grass is dry and brown, that in the early morning hours we notice a glistening of dew that fell during the night. It makes the land that was dry become a place of refreshment. This is the same refreshing dew that the Spirit makes available to us at Mass, renewing our hearts to offer praise to our God through our prayer and actions. God is always at work in us!

Have a dew-filled and prayerful week ahead!