

# LITURGY BYTES

## A Different View

Because it is Sacrament season with not only Baptisms, but First Communions, Confirmations and even ordinations happening within May and June, I wanted to look at a different approach to our “Amen” when celebrating the Sacraments and our greatest gift, the Mass.



The words ***pay attention*** are often said to us at different times in our lives, especially as children, but I must admit it does continue into adulthood, too. It is important and not easy. This is why we still need to work on it as adults. Something else to realize is that it is so very helpful when it comes to fully participating in liturgy, especially the Mass. I would like to spend a little time on the subject of active participation on two levels: attending to the liturgy as it unfolds, and attending to the movements of our hearts before, during and after the celebration. Hope you are on board! These are both essential to the full, active participation that those Liturgical documents from the Second Vatican Council describe.

Keep in mind that active participation describes first what God does, and only then what we do. Liturgy is God's action, God's initiative, and God's gift. Liturgy is God's participation in the life of the world and in the midst of this community. Liturgy is God's gift and God's work in us and among us. Liturgy is God's initiative, drawing us together with the human race and the whole of creation to form one body in Christ. It requires a response from us for sure. However, we need to ask, how do we respond? Simple answer---by paying attention! Please watch for next week's *Liturgy Bytes* for examples of how we need to pay attention and what we need to pay attention to at Mass.

Have a blessed, peaceful, and healthy week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*