

Presentations 5 and 6: A step-by-step tour through the Mass from the perspective of presiding

The Order of Mass

Preparation for Mass: pray for your people, that you may love them as Jesus does.

The Introductory Rites

Procession and Entrance Chant

(Pause to make eye contact with the people you love!)

Sign of the Cross, Greeting

(Words of welcome and introduction)

Penitential Act

Confiteor, Dialogue, or Acclamations

Kyrie

(Gloria)

Collect

Invitation, pause, spoken prayer (maintain same pace and tone throughout the prayer!!) is called "collect" because it sums up the silent prayer of the assembly; it's not over until the assembly has finished its response: "Amen."

Break: an ending . . . and a beginning.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading, Psalm (Second Reading)

Deliberate reflective pause after reading(s); simple transitional pause after psalm.

Gospel Acclamation and Gospel

Homily

Pause for reflection.

(Symbol or Profession of Faith)

(Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed or the "baptismal symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed")

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful or Bidding Prayers)

Introduction addressed to assembly as invitation to pray; petitions addressed to assembly ("For . . . that . . . let us pray" probably the best format); concluding prayer is a collect addressed to God the Father.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the altar and gifts

Rigorously avoid clutter on the altar. It should be completely empty at the beginning. Servers should bring book and chalice(s), corporal and purificator(s).

As far as possible, bread should be brought up in one, preferably flat and open, ciborium; wine in one flagon, to be poured into chalice(s) at this time. (Do not use separate paten for priest's host.) Presider should place ciborium on altar, not pick it up for the blessing prayer and then put it back down.

All the prayers accompanying the actions should be said inaudibly, with the possible exception of the "blessing prayers" if there no music. Avoid vocal clutter as well as visual clutter!

Prayer over the Offerings

The invitation, response of the assembly, and the prayer (in "collect style") itself are all one unit. Be sure you have the page set before you begin the invitation. The assembly should stand at the beginning of the invitation (invite them to stand if necessary), and the presider should attend to the assembly's response (not fumbling with pages, glasses, or whatever!); the presider's prayer then sums up ("collect style") the prayer of the assembly. It's not over until the assembly has finished its "Amen."

The Eucharistic Prayer

The transitional break here has to be clear. After the "Amen," turn the page to the Eucharistic Prayer. Look at the assembly and make eye-contact in several directions, then extend your hands and say "The Lord be with you." (This is also an appropriate time for a very brief word of introduction -- never after the Holy ... !)

Maintain as far as possible a sense that the whole Eucharistic Prayer is one, unified prayer address to God the Father. This is difficult because there are many things that tend to fragment it.

Properly proclaiming the Eucharistic Prayer takes attention and energy. After the Great Amen has been sung, a break is absolutely necessary. The assembly should stand at this time.

The Communion Rite

The Invitation, Lord's Prayer, Embolism, and Doxology

In the pause after the Eucharistic Prayer, turn the page, look at the assembly, and only then begin to invite them to pray the Lord's Prayer. Remember that the Lord's Prayer, the Embolism, and the Doxology are one unit. Convey that by the way you lead it.

Rite of Peace

Why here?

Shift in prayer: to Jesus Christ. How do you indicate this shift?

Do not prolong.

Fraction Rite

Breaking of the Bread is for sharing/distribution. Make it obvious and substantial. One for many. Lamb of God accompanies, not the other way around.

Private prayers of presider: *inaudible!*

Invitation to Communion and Communion Procession

Posture?

After Communion

Silence: how long?

Prayer after Communion: stand, same rules as other presidential prayers.

The Concluding Rites

Announcements:

Keep them few, relevant and short enough for people to pay attention while standing.

They need to relate to going forth from Eucharist into the life of the church.

Greeting, blessing and dismissal

Solemn blessing?

Recessional. *Rubrics simply say, "Priest . . . withdraws."*