

More on

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Experiencing Mass as Heaven on Earth!

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Several years ago I was invited to attend an all day Catholic Conference which was taking place inside the large hall of a Catholic church.

I had never been at that church, and did not know anyone there.

When I arrived I could hear beautiful music playing and great singing.

I was hoping to meet someone I knew, but seeing no familiar face around and feeling somewhat shy and uncomfortable around strangers, I decided to leave.

As I began walking away I heard someone calling me back. It was “a minister of hospitality”, and had noticed me looking around with a “lost” look on my face.

He introduced himself, then he invited me to stay as he explained the schedule of events for the day, and led me to a seat.

I was touched by his kindness and thoughtfulness.

Thanks to him I began to attend the monthly “prayer gatherings and conferences” in that parish church.

What has been your experience in your parish?

Have you been made feel welcome?

Most Catholic parishes have ministers of hospitality at the church doors.

They are there to welcome each person that comes in.

First impressions are very important. It is so encouraging to be welcome with a sincere smile:

“WELCOME TO OUR PARISH... to praise and worship our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Do you know that at the entrance of every Catholic church there are millions of angels welcoming Catholics who have come to offer praise, worship, adoration and thanksgiving to God in Jesus Christ?

You can only see them with the eyes of faith, nevertheless these same millions of angels gather around the altar to adore and worship the Lord along with us and the whole church congregation as we pray and sing: “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST... We PRAISE YOU - WE BLESS YOU - WE ADORE YOU - WE GLORIFY YOU - WE GIVE YOU THANKS... YOU ALONE ARE THE HOLY ONE - YOU THE LORD - THE MOST HIGH JESUS CHRIST”...

Later on, we are also reminded that at EACH MASS, TRULY HEAVEN MEETS EARTH when God’s glory in Heaven actually descends upon earth, in our church!

HOW DO WE KNOW THIS?

Pause for a moment on the prayer of “preface of Eucharistic Prayer IV (before Consecration), which the priest offers to God in our behalf: “AND SO, IN YOUR PRESENCE ARE COUNTLESS HOSTS OF ANGELS, who serve You day and night, and... glorify You without ceasing. With them we, too, confess

Your Name in EXULTATION... AS WE ACCLAIM... 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY... HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY!!!'

ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL? CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW INCREDIBLE TO BE PRAISING GOD WITH THE ANGELS AND THE SAINTS!

Can anyone still say that Mass is boring?

By paying CLOSE ATTENTION to the prayers recited by the priest during Mass, and by following them in our heart, we will notice how RICH in meaning and how ANOINTED these prayers truly are! THEY PREPARE US FOR THE HEAVENLY ENCOUNTER!

So... Enter the church with expectant faith, and expect your Guardian Angel and all the Angels to accompany you by the millions, and to help you offer proper praise, worship and adoration to God Almighty!

NEXT WEEK: What is a Healing Mass?