

Giving Glory To God At Mass

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Last week we saw that the “Penitential Rite” is the moment when we receive the Father’s forgiveness and His HEALING EMBRACE, much like the “prodigal son”.

But now... comes our turn to REJOICE and EXPRESS our gratitude and our love to our merciful Father by singing. to him a hymn of PRAISE.

We do this with a prayer taken from “Apostolic Constitutions”, an ancient document that survives from the year 400 A.D. This hymn of praise was used at that time as a morning prayer.

We know it as the “GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO”, Latin for “Glory to God in the highest”.

In the “GLORIA” we enter into the praise of Jesus before the Father. His prayer becomes our prayer. Our prayer becomes His prayer.

We join the earthly priesthood with the heavenly priesthood, and together acknowledge God’s perfection, His works, and His benefits.

As Catholics we tend to be petition-oriented, which has the unfortunate effect of keeping us as the centre of our prayer. In praise, Jesus is the centre of our prayer. So, let us praise Him!

This is what we are called to do with our whole being.

As we become praise-conscious people, praising and thanking the Lord for everything and everyone in our lives, we are, in effect, surrendering to Him. We are forgetting about ourselves and concentrating on Him.

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6).

When we forget about ourselves and direct our attention to God, and we worship and praise Him, we will become MORE OPEN TO HEALING of body, mind and spirit.

There are countless testimonies of healing that came about as a result of continued prayer of praise.

The GLORIA prayer has three parts: the first part is the song that the shepherds heard sung by the heavenly choir of angels at the birth of Christ.

The second part praises God by recalling His attributes.

The third part prays to Jesus, asking Him to save us from our sins.

If you have the Living with Christ Sunday Missal, you find it on page 12.

It may be worthwhile to read the GLORIA slowly, meditate on it, and pray it often. In time you will feel inner transformation as you unite in prayer with Jesus and the Holy Spirit to glorify the Father, and as you proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God offered in sacrifice for our salvation.