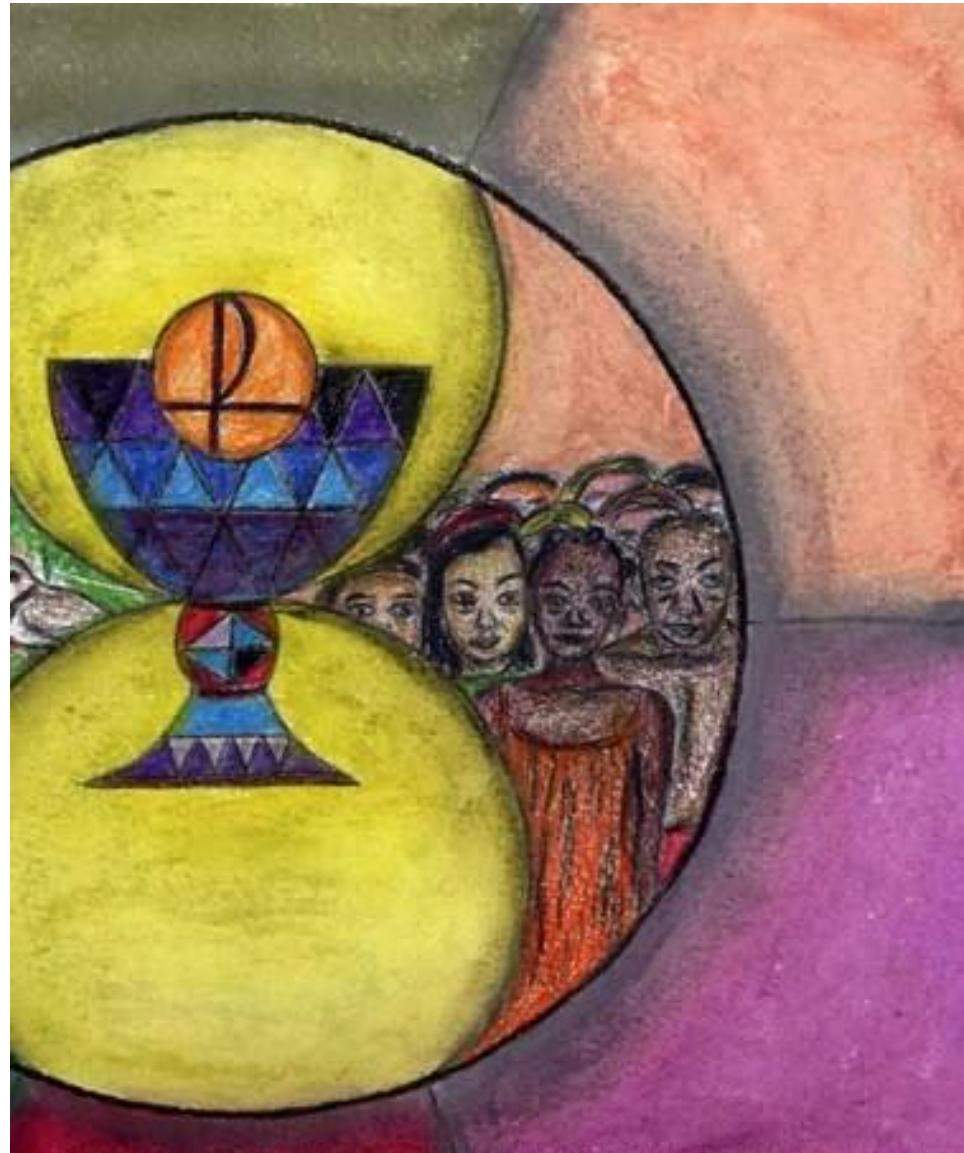


la
celebrazione
domenicale
dell'Eucaristia
formi i
Cristiani



Main Sources

- XVI Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi - *Per una Chiesa sinodale: Comunione, partecipazione, missione* [26 ottobre 2024]
- St Augustine, *Sermon 272* (c 404-411, Hippo Regius)
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist ... The Mass

*Lumen
gentium,*

11

“the source and summit of
the Christian life”

[Vatican II, Dogmatic
Constitution on the Church,
November, 1964]

Per una Chiesa sinodale (117)

Una delle principali articolazioni della Chiesa locale che la storia ci consegna è la Parrocchia. **La comunità parrocchiale, che si incontra nella celebrazione dell'Eucaristia, è luogo privilegiato di relazioni, accoglienza, discernimento e missione ... ricomprenderne la configurazione ... comunità su base non elettiva.**

The parish community, which meets in the celebration of the Eucharist, is a privileged place of relationships, hospitality, discernment and mission



St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Sermon 372 c 408

https://www.earlychurchtexts.com/public/augustine_sermon_272_eucharist.htm

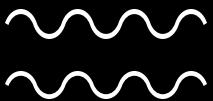
*it is our own mystery
that we are receiving*

“It is your own mystery
that you are receiving!
You are saying “Amen”
to what you are ... ”



‘Be a member of
Christ's body, then,
so that your “Amen”
may ring true!’

‘Do this in
Memory of
Me’



St. Augustine, Sermon 372

This is the image chosen by Christ our Lord to show how, at his own table, the sacrament (mystery) of our unity and peace is solemnly consecrated. All who fail to keep the bond of peace, after entering this mystery receive not a sacrament that benefits them, but an indictment that condemns them.

So let us give God our sincere and deepest gratitude and, as far as human weakness will permit, let us turn to the Lord with pure hearts. With all our strength, let us seek God's singular mercy, for then the Divine Goodness will surely hear our prayers.

... and lead us, finally, to share the divine happiness through God's own son Jesus Christ.

The Mass/The Eucharist



Christ is risen

‘Since the whole mystery of our salvation is comprised in this sacrament, therefore is it performed with greater solemnity than the other sacraments.’

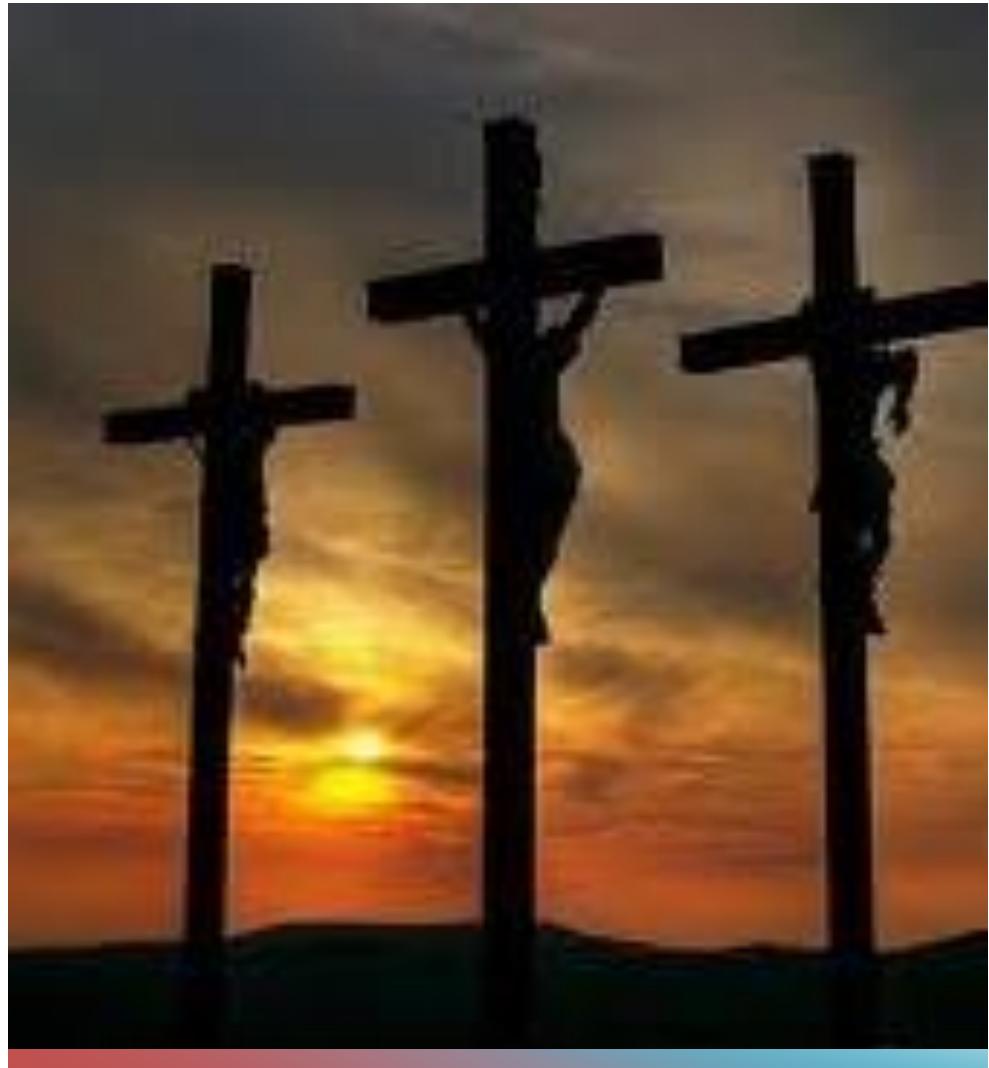
St Thomas Aquinas, 1224/6–1274
(ST III q.83, a.4 c)



Sacrifice and Sacrament

A sign, a concrete reminder of God's presence among us

We remember the Last Supper AND the sacrificial death on a cross



Forgiveness of Sins

- ... ‘this sacrament has from Christ’s passion the power of forgiving all sins.’
- Recipient
- Mortal sin?

(St Thomas Aquinas, ST III q.79, a.3)



Eucharistia

- Liturgy of the Word
- ‘Breaking of the Word’
- Proclamation

- Liturgy of the Eucharist
- Breaking of the Bread



Liturgy of the Ministry of Lector
Word Rite of inauguration

Liturgy of the Eucharist

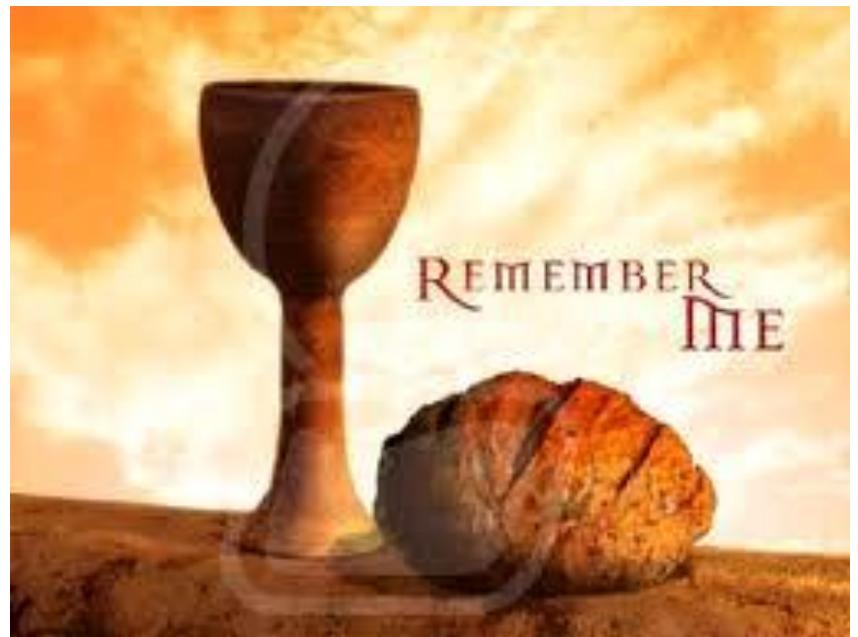
We pray asking God to send the Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, so that we can receive Christ in Holy Communion.

Transubstantiation

- Words cannot explain – they creak ... break
- “An everyday miracle”
- The bread still looks like bread, and the wine like wine, they have now become for us the body and blood of Christ

‘Surely the word of Christ, which could make out of nothing that which did not exist, can change things already in existence into what they were not.’

St Ambrose of Milan, c. 339 – 397



Eucharistic Presence

- ❖ The consecrated Bread and Wine
- ❖ In the person of the ordained minister
- ❖ When the readings are proclaimed
- ❖ In the gathered community

'Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, "the same now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered himself on the cross", but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is present in the sacraments, so that when anyone baptizes it is really Christ himself who baptizes. Christ is present in His word, since it is Christ Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20) .

(Sacrosanctum Concilium 7)



Receiving

**Dignity Reverence
Awe
The Body of Christ**

‘Make your left hand a throne for your right, since your right hand is about to welcome a king. Cup your palm and receive in it Christ’s body, saying in response “Amen” ... then...go to receive the chalice of his blood.’

St Cyril of Alexandria (c.375—444)

The first taste of the eschatological feast

Heavenly Banquet

- The Eucharist as Viaticum
- Offered to those who are about to leave this life
- Seed of eternal life and the power of resurrection, according to the words of the Lord: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."
- From death to life, from this world to the Father.

Formation of Missionary Disciples

Per questo è importante scoprire come la celebrazione domenicale dell’Eucaristia formi i Cristiani: «La pienezza della nostra formazione è la conformazione a Cristo [...]: non si tratta di un processo mentale, astratto, ma di diventare Lui» (DD 41).

Per molti Fedeli, l’Eucaristia domenicale è l’unico contatto con la Chiesa: curarne la celebrazione nel modo migliore, con particolare riguardo all’omelia e alla «attiva partecipazione» (SC 14) di tutti, è decisivo per la sinodalità. Il dono della comunione, missione e partecipazione – i tre assi portanti della sinodalità – si realizza e si rinnova in ogni Eucaristia. (142)

Formation of Missionary Disciples

*Per una
Chiesa
sinodale*

The celebration of the Eucharist forms Christians - ongoing

For many of the Faithful the Sunday Eucharist is the only contact with the Church

We must take care how we celebrate – particularly in regard to the homily and ‘active participation’ of all (SC 14)

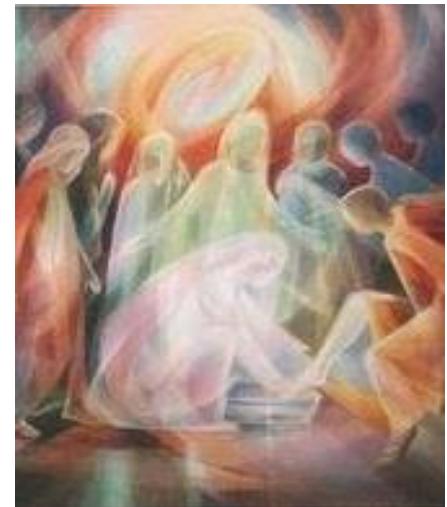
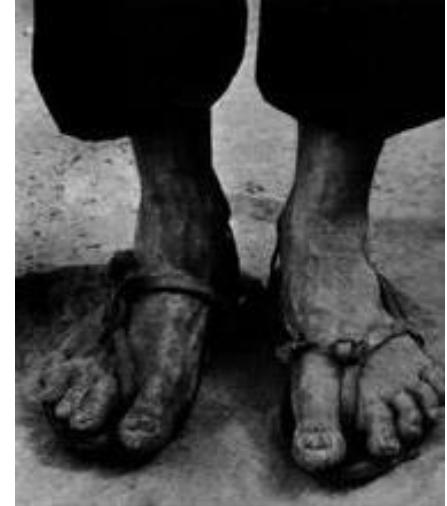
‘The gift of communion, mission and participation – the three cornerstones of synodality – is realized and renewed in every Eucharist.’ (142)

GO . . . Concluding Rites

Put into effect what we have received

Go forth, the Mass is ended.
Go and announce the Gospel of
the Lord.
Go in peace, glorifying the Lord
by your life.
Go in peace.

Thanks be to God



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142. La formazione dei discepoli missionari comincia con l’Iniziazione Cristiana e si radica in essa. Nella storia di ognuno c’è l’incontro con molte persone e gruppi o piccole comunità che hanno contribuito a introdurci nella relazione con il Signore e nella comunione della Chiesa: genitori e familiari, padrini e madrine, catechisti e educatori, animatori della liturgia e operatori nell’ambito della carità, Diaconi, Presbiteri e lo stesso Vescovo. Talvolta, concluso il percorso dell’Iniziazione, il legame con la comunità s’indebolisce e la formazione viene trascurata. Essere discepoli missionari del Signore non è però un traguardo raggiunto una volta per tutte. Implica conversione continua, crescita nell’amore «fino a raggiungere la misura della pienezza di Cristo» (Ef 4,13) e apertura ai doni dello Spirito per una testimonianza viva e gioiosa della fede. Per questo è importante riscoprire come la celebrazione domenicale dell’Eucaristia formi i Cristiani: «La pienezza della nostra formazione è la conformazione a Cristo [...]: non si tratta di un processo mentale, astratto, ma di diventare Lui» (DD 41). Per molti Fedeli, l’Eucaristia domenicale è l’unico contatto con la Chiesa: curarne la celebrazione nel modo migliore, con particolare riguardo all’omelia e alla «attiva partecipazione» (SC 14) di tutti, è decisivo per la sinodalità. Nella Messa, infatti, essa accade come grazia donata dall’alto, prima che come esito dei nostri sforzi: sotto la presidenza di uno e grazie al ministero di alcuni, tutti possono partecipare alla duplice mensa della Parola e del Pane. Il dono della comunione, missione e partecipazione – i tre assi portanti della sinodalità – si realizza e si rinnova in ogni Eucaristia