



Liturgical Principles

1. **Liturgy** is the **participation** of the **People of God** in the **Work of God**.
2. The “Work of God” is done for:
 - a. The Glory of God; and
 - b. Our Sanctification.
 - c. And these two things are inseparable. When I give God glory, I myself become holy (“sanctified”). And God is glorified when I become holy. This is the goal of the Liturgy; and the meaning of every human life. So the liturgy is no indifferent thing!
3. God the Father is the source and goal of all this Work.
4. God the Son carries out this Work in His Paschal Mystery:
 - a. His Suffering;
 - b. His Death;
 - c. His Resurrection;
 - d. His Ascension to Heaven;
 - e. Through all of which He (the Son) builds a great Bridge from fallen humanity (separated from God by sin) back to the Redeemed in Heaven.
5. The Holy Spirit is involved in this Work in 4 Principal Ways:
 - a. He prepares humanity for the coming of Christ (think of the Old Testament prophets; but also all the many ways He is working in secular people’s lives, trying to lead them to Christ even right now);
 - b. He recalls Christ and His works in the souls of believers (but we have to cooperate with His work in our souls – we have to respond);
 - c. He actualizes and makes present Christ and His work to us now (think above all of the sacraments Jesus gave to the Church); and
 - d. He unites God’s People into the Communion of the Church (through the same confession of faith; through the same sacraments received; and through the same hierarchy governing us).
6. The “People of God” is all the baptized.
7. Every baptized person, as a member of the People of God, is commissioned to cooperate in the Son’s Bridge-Building Project (which we call Redemption). No one is excepted from this task. You have a job to do, baptized soul!
8. The Place where Jesus and the People of God meet is in the Liturgical “Rite” (“Rite” is short for “Ritual”), which is woven together from:
 - a. Signs;
 - b. Symbols;
 - c. Actions;
 - d. Language;





- e. Time;
 - f. Ministers;
 - g. The assembly;
 - h. Music;
 - i. Art; and
 - j. Architecture,
 - k. All of which (a. – j.) are woven together to create a beautiful work of art, which is none other than the whole Christ Himself, Head and Body, working together, to accomplish the Work of God, which as stated above at #2, is 1.) the glorification of God; and 2.) the sanctification of souls.
9. And when all of this functions correctly, we can say true statements like: “The Liturgy can prevent nuclear war!”
- a. In other words, if the Liturgy is meant to transform (“sanctify” = “make holy”) human beings by glorifying God, then those transformed human beings will go out and change the rest of this fallen world, being active participants in God’s “bridge-building project” (i.e. Redemption, which is the “Work of God” in Jesus Christ, happening in each individual soul, and the Church as a whole, spreading to all of mankind).
 - b. But we can’t give what we don’t have; so take this Work of the Liturgy seriously in your own lives.
 - c. Learn and teach your families what you can about what we are doing at the Mass. Learn and teach what each of the many elements (#8, a. – j. above) at the Liturgy communicate to us.
 - d. And to the extent we co-operate with God working in each of us, to that extent will God change the world around us, and bring about His Kingdom, for which we pray in the Our Father.
 - e.

Please check out the following as trusted sources for further growing in your Liturgical knowledge, and thinking with the Church on the various liturgical topics:

- The Liturgy Guys Podcast (fun, informative, and also on all your podcast providers): <https://liturgyguys.podbean.com/>
- *Adoremus* Liturgy Bulletin (explore their helpful website for articles on all different topics): <https://adoremus.org/>
- Liturgical Institute of Mundelein (refresh your soul and renew the Church by taking any of their courses provided there, even online): <https://www.liturgicalinstitute.org/>

