

# BECOMING THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST

Sr. Kathleen Harmon, SNDdeN, Ph.D



NPM Chapter of Rapid City, South Dakota

Terra Sancta Retreat Center

September 23, 2023

**Handout #1**

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1. Eucharist and the Mystery of the Trinity
  - a. Gift of Self
  - b. *Communio*
  - c. The Paschal Mystery
2. Eucharist and the Mystery of Christ
  - a. Gift of Self
  - b. Incarnation of *Communio*
  - c. The Paschal Mystery
3. Eucharist and the Mystery of the Church
  - a. Gift of Self in Christ
  - b. *Communio* in Christ
  - c. Participation in Christ's Paschal Mystery
4. The Paschal Mystery
  - a. Paschal Mystery as passing-over from one way of being to another
  - b. Paschal Mystery as dialectic of resistance and surrender
  - c. Paschal Mystery as dialectic of *kenosis* and *theosis*
5. The Deep Structure of the Mass: How the Eucharist Makes Present the Paschal Mystery
  - a. Introductory Rites: God calls us together (*qahal*)
  - b. Liturgy of the Word: God calls us to be who we are meant to be
  - c. Liturgy of the Eucharist: God transforms us into the Body of Christ
  - d. Concluding Rites: God missions us to be the Body of Christ for others

6. Meaning of Full, Conscious, Active Participation
  - a. Active: engaging in external actions of the liturgy
  - b. Conscious: knowingly surrendering ourselves to God's action
  - c. Full: transformation into Body of Christ
7. Becoming the Eucharist: The Body of Christ
  - a. God's work: *theosis*
  - b. Our work: *kenosis*
  - c. Mary as our Model
8. Becoming the Eucharist: Ministers of Music

## **Liturgy: Making Present the Paschal Mystery**

### Paschal Mystery as passing-over from one way of being to another

1. Israel Exodus
  - the Exodus
  - from slavery to freedom
  - from Egypt to the Promised Land
  - from Hebrew community to God's Chosen People
  - dialectic of resistance and surrender
2. Christ
  - from divinity to humanness
  - from life within the Trinity to life among human beings
  - from Jesus of Nazareth to the Risen Christ
  - ongoing process (nativity, in temple at age 12, baptism into his mission, temptation in desert, Gethsemane, etc. )
3. Us
  - from self as self to self as Body of Christ
  - from human to divine
  - dialectic of resistance and surrender

### Paschal Mystery as dialectic of kenosis and theosis

Kenosis = emptying self, giving self, letting go

Theosis = being made divine

1. Kenosis of the Trinity
  - Pouring Self out in creation
  - Letting go
  - Vulnerability
  - Fragility
2. Kenosis- theosis of Christ — Phil 2:5-11
  - Pouring Self out in Incarnation
  - Letting go
  - Vulnerability
  - Fragility
  - Exaltation
3. Our kenosis - theosis
  - dying — rising
  - emptying of self — being filled with divinity
  - individualism — communio
  - not yet — already
  - resistance — surrender

# THE PASCHAL MYSTERY STRUCTURE OF THE MASS

I. Introductory Rites	II. Liturgy of the Word	III. Liturgy of the Eucharist	IV. Concluding Rite
✠  <i>gathering / call</i>  becoming really present  <i>kenosis</i>	✠  who we are meant to be  remaining really present  <i>kenosis</i>	✠  who we already are  <i>aniclesis</i>  becoming Real Presence  <i>theosis</i>	✠  for others  remaining Real Presence  <i>kenosis ↔ theosis</i>

# THE PASCHAL MYSTERY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LITURGY AND LIFE

Gathering Rite	Full, Conscious, Active Participation	Dismissal Rite
Daily Christian living →	Liturgy →	Daily Christian living

**Epiclesis**

EP I

not as clear

EP II

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

EP III

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

... grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

EP IV

Therefore, O Lord, we pray:  
may this same Holy Spirit  
graciously sanctify these offerings,  
that they may become  
the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

... grant in your living kindness  
to all who partake of this one Bread and one Chalice  
that, gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit,  
they may truly become a living sacrifice in Christ  
to the praise of your glory.

If you are to understand what it means to be the Body of Christ,  
hear what Paul has to say:

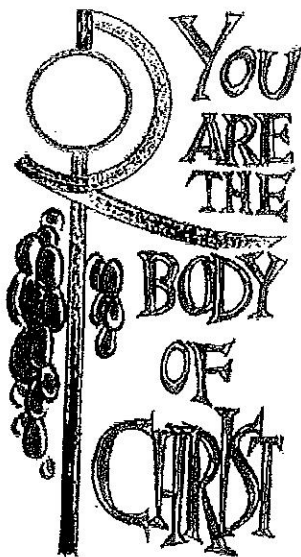
"Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it"  
(1 Cor 12:27).

If you are the Body of Christ and members of it,  
then it is that mystery which is placed on the Lord's table:

you receive the mystery,  
which is to say the Body of Christ,  
your very self.

You answer Amen to who you are  
and in the answer you embrace yourself.  
You hear Body of Christ and answer Amen.  
Be a member of Christ's Body,  
that your Amen will be true.

(St. Augustine, Sermon 272)



EUCCHARIST

He was old,  
tired,  
and sweaty,  
Pushing his homemade cart

D

O

W

N the alley S

T

O

P

P

I

N

G Now and then

to poke his cane in somebody's garbage can.  
I wanted to tell him about Eucharist

But the look in his eye,  
the despair in his face

Told me to forget it.

So in smiling to him and saying, "Hi"--I gave him EUCCHARIST.

She was nicely built and cute,  
too much paint, though,  
a little wobbly on her feet as she slid  
from her bar stool

and was very definitely after another.

"No thanks, not tonight," I said--and gave her EUCCHARIST.

She lived alone,  
her husband was dead,  
her family was gone  
And she talked at you--not to you,  
words, endless words she spewed out,  
I listened and gave her EUCCHARIST.

Downtown is nice;  
Lights change from red to green,  
and back again  
flashing blues, pinks, oranges and yellows.  
I gulped them in  
Said "Thank you, Father," and made EUCCHARIST.

I laugh at myself.  
and told myself  
"You with all your sin  
and all your selfishness, I forgive you, I accept you,  
I love you,  
It's nice and so necessary, too, to give yourself EUCCHARIST."



Tired, weary, disgusted, lonely,  
Go to your friends,  
Open your door,  
Say, "Look at me" and receive EUCHARIST.

God, when will we learn  
We cannot talk EUCHARIST,  
cannot philosophize about it--YOU DO IT.

You don't dogmatize EUCHARIST  
Sometimes you laugh it,  
Sometimes you cry it,  
Sometimes you sing it,  
Sometimes it is peace,  
Then crying hurt  
Often humiliating,  
Never deserved

You see EUCHARIST in another's eyes,  
You give it in another's hand to hold tight,  
You squeeze it in an embrace.

You pause EUCHARIST in the middle of the day,  
speak EUCHARIST with a million things to do,  
And with a person who wants to talk.

For EUCHARIST is as simple as being on time,  
and as profound as sympathy.

I give you my supper  
I give you my sustenance  
I give you my life  
I give you myself  
I give you EUCHARIST.