

Living the Truth: Chapter 47

The Mass as a Sacrifice

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Outline

- 1 The Mass as a Sacrifice
 - Pre-eminence
 - Last Supper, Mass and Calvary

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- By an external act which expresses our homage.

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What is a Sacrifice

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The Central Sacrifice.

- The Sacrifice of Calvary.
- Why central.
- Why all perfect and infinitely pleasing to God.

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The Last Supper

- The double consecration of bread and wine.
- How this gives us Calvary by freeing it from the limits of time and place.
- Christ's command: "Do this in commemoration of Me."

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The Mass

- In virtue of the character given him at ordination the priest today does what Christ did in the Supper Room.
- He puts Christ's death present before us in such a way that we can all take an active part in His Sacrifice by offering it with Him to God.
- By the Mass, then, we are able to give God a worship worthy of Him.

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The Mass and Calvary

- The Mass is substantially the same sacrifice as that of the Cross.
- How they are the same, and how they differ:
 - The efficient cause in each — the Priest
 - The material cause in each — the Victim
 - The formal cause in each — the Immolation
 - The final cause in each — the worship due to God

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Our Part in the Mass

- **The Mass is our sacrifice as well as Christ's.**
- We should take a very active part in it by offering it in union with Christ and with the priest at the altar who represents us.
- This implies an offering of ourselves to God.
- It implies too, dispositions of subjection, reverence and love like those that filled Christ's soul on Calvary.
- We should strive to live the Mass daily by increasing these good dispositions.

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The Value of the Mass

- It enables us to offer to God a sacrifice of infinite worth.
- It brings down God's gifts to us:
 - It forgives sin by the actual graces it offers.
 - It remits temporal punishment.
 - It obtains spiritual and temporal goods for us.
 - At Mass we can receive Holy Communion.
- The Mass is the very centre of Christian worship.
- How we should treasure it as our Saviour's greatest gift.
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Practical Conclusions

- 1 I should never miss Mass when I can reasonably be expected to go.
- 2 I should take a very active part in the Mass, and not be just a passive spectator.
- 3 I should always be in time for Mass, and remain there to the end.
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