

Sacrosanctum Concilium II

Liturgy as a Dialogue

- 1) In the document *Dei Verbum*, the Second Vatican Council describes God's revelation in terms of a dialogue. That is, God acts and speaks in a way that makes him known to us, and we in turn have the opportunity to acknowledge and respond to him in faith.
- 2) In what way is the liturgy a part of God's revelation? How is it a dialogue?
- 3) The first requirement of any dialogue is the presence of the ones speaking. How is God present to us in the Mass and what is he saying? How do we in turn make ourselves present to him? What do we bring to the "conversation"?
- 4) Christ gives himself fully to us in the form of the consecrated bread and wine. How can we more fully give of ourselves in response?

Making the Liturgy Accessible

- 5) The Council called for a simplification of the actions that take place during the Mass so that the gestures of greater importance might stand out better. Think about the different postures and gestures that the people or the priest perform during the Mass. What does each of them signify?
- 6) The Council desired that the biblical readings at Mass should be in the language of the people so that they could hear and be instructed by God's word. Do you approach the Liturgy of the Word with the attitude of desiring to receive advice from God? If not, what can you do to become more receptive to God's word?
- 7) Nowadays, all the parts of the Mass may be said in English, including the prayers of the priest directed to the Father. If those prayers are meant for God, why does the whole congregation need to understand them? Why does the priest say "Let us pray," and what is the meaning of the people's "Amen" after the prayers of the priest?