

## ADORATION 101

### THE SACRAMENT OF CHARITY:

#### *The Homily and Presentation of the Gifts*

Moving right ahead in our study on Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI's 2007 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist (¶ 46-47), we arrive at an explanation on the relationship of a proper homily and the presentation of the gifts.

The Holy Father acknowledges that the quality of homilies during the Holy Mass needs to be improved given the important role that the Word of God plays in the liturgy. The Church's Magisterium (teaching authority) has meticulously pieced together a three-year cycle of Mass readings treating the great themes within the Catholic faith. These are based upon the four "pillars" of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Compendium to the Catechism (the profession of faith, the celebration of the Christian mystery, life in Christ, and Christian prayer). Therefore, he advises, "*ordained ministers much prepare the homily carefully, based on an adequate knowledge of Sacred Scripture.*" These ministers ought to preach in such a way that the "*homily closely relates to the proclamation of the Word of God to the sacramental celebration.*"

The presentation of the gifts also plays a significant role in the Mass and towards the Eucharist as well. The Pope drew attention to the fact that the presentation of the gifts should not be viewed or done in a passive way, as just something to bridge the time between the homily and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Rather, we must come to recognize the real significance of this liturgical action.

The humble and simple gesture of bringing the gifts to the altar contains much significance. For one, the bread and wine taken up represents ALL of creation; which is presented by Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, to the Father to be transformed. Pope Benedict says, "*in this way, we also bring to the altar all the pain and suffering of the world, in the certainty that everything has value in God's eyes.*" Always keep this in mind whenever you're participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Attach your own sufferings and pains to the gifts as well. Make the most of the Holy Mass for the benefit of yourself and all your loved ones.

NEXT WEEK: The Eucharistic prayers and the sign of peace. – Paul A. Ray