

We're All In This Together

It is easy to get caught up in our own thoughts and desires sometimes, even when it comes to attending Mass. We've all heard people say, "I don't feel like going to Mass," or "I don't get anything out of Mass." When people say this, though, they are missing the point: Mass is not about the *I*, it is about the

we. The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* of Vatican II reminds us that liturgy is to be a communal act, which means that it is not just about our individual entertainment or expectations (26). Part of the way in which we are transformed by the liturgy is by entering into communion with others, which requires us to ponder our connection and contribution to the whole.

We enter into communion with each other at Mass by praying with and for each other, professing the same faith, offering the same sacrifice in Christ, and sharing together at the Eucharistic table. We enter into communion with all the angels, saints, and holy men and women who continually give God thanks and praise in the heavenly liturgy that we foreshadow on earth and in which we desire one day to take part (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 8). The fullness of this communion, of course, takes place in and with God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What prevents you from sharing your time and actions with others?
- When have you experienced the positive effects of being a part of a community or team? What were they?

ACTIVITY

There are several different Eucharistic Prayers that are contained in the *Roman Missal*. Although their wording is different, they all have the same components and follow a similar structure. For this activity, locate a copy of Eucharistic Prayer #2 (you may want to ask a priest or teacher for help finding it). Underline any nouns, names, or groups of people you come across. Who does this prayer tell us is being joined in communion through the Eucharist? Did you find the word *I* in the Eucharistic Prayer? Who was the word *you* used to describe? How does this challenge you to think about your role at Mass, especially as it relates to others?



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