

The Sacrifice of the Mass

When it comes to the Sacrifice of the Mass, non-Catholics will ask the question, “*If the sacrifice was offered “**once for all by Christ**” (Hebrews 9:26-28), why do Catholics offer the same sacrifice at every mass – especially since the Father has already accepted it?* Another charge is that we re-sacrifice Jesus at every mass. This is simply a misunderstanding of the sacrifice of the Mass.

Rev. 13:8 says that Christ was crucified *before the foundation of the world*. His is an **eternal** sacrifice before the Father. In God's eyes, Jesus is crucified before the foundation of the world and is **ever-present** as a sacrifice before him. Jesus never stops mediating on our behalf. **Revelation 5:6** says, “*And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.*”

In **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**, Paul speaks to the reality of the Eucharist and the **severity** of the consequences to those who take this lightly: “*Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks, without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.*”

This directly correlates to the Bread of Life discourse in **John 6**, where Jesus stated in no uncertain terms: “*Amen, amen, I say to you, **unless you eat** the flesh of the Son of Man **and drink** his blood, **you do not have life within you**. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.*”

The word **Mass** comes from the Latin, **Missa**, which means “*to send*”, “*to go forth*”, “*to dismiss*” Because the Mass represents the finished work of Christ for our very redemption, it is the ultimate prayer of the Church and the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith (CCC 1324). Many of the prayers and blessings in the Mass come directly from the Bible (**Matt. 28: 19, 2 Cor. 1: 2 & 13: 13, Psalms 51:6, James 5:16, 1 John 1:19, Luke 2: 14, Rom. 8:34, John 1: 28, Eph 5:20, Rev 7:12, Gen 1, Col. 1:16, Heb 1:3, 1 Cor. 15:34, 2 Tim. 4:1, Mark 9:24, John 11: 27, Mark 9:38, John 17:9 & 20, Phil. 2:4, Chron. 29:10, Psalms 72:18-19,119:10, Luke 1: 68, Matt. 5: 23 -24, Matt. 28:26-28, Mark 14:22-25, Isa. 6: 3, Rev 4:8, Mark 14:22,24, Matt. 26: 26 -28, Luke 22: 19 – 20: 1 Cor. 11:23-25**). To deny the sacrifice of the Mass is to deny the eternal sacrifice of our Lord on our behalf.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.catholic.com/library/Sacrifice_of_the_Mass.asp

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/10006a.htm>