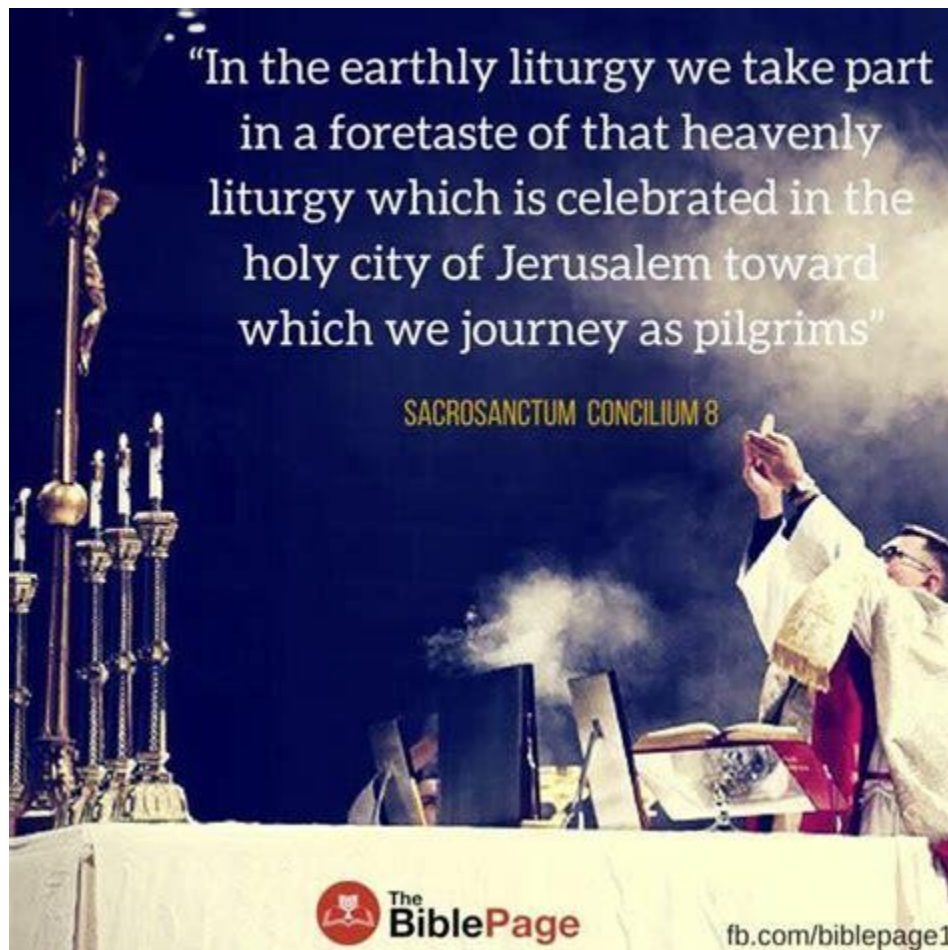


**FROM FATHER JOHN:** *“And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:15-17)*



Saint Jean Vianney said “There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.” St. Pio of Pietrelcina said “It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass.” And, the Church teaches that the Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” (Lumen Gentium, 11)

The General Instruction to the Roman Missal (GIRM) elaborates. “The celebration of Mass, as the action of Christ and of the People of God arrayed hierarchically, is the center of the whole of Christian life for the Church both universal and local, as

well as for each of the faithful individually. For in it is found the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit.” (GIRM: 16)

The greatest thing we do in our spiritual lives is to come to mass and celebrate the Eucharist. This celebration is at the heart of how we give glory to God. The celebration of the mass is the central way in which we participate in the ongoing work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do this by our worship, our actions, our proclamation of the Word of God, and our receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus.

Someone once asked me why we have music during the mass; can't we just celebrate mass without music?

Music is an integral part of our participation in the mass and in the work of God. *Musica Sacram* mentions five specific ministerial functions of music in the liturgy. One, prayer is given a more graceful expression. Two, the mystery of the liturgy is more openly shown. Three, the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of voices. Four, minds are more easily raised to heavenly things by the beauty of the liturgy. Five, the whole celebration more clearly prefigures the heavenly liturgy.

To truly participate in this great act of celebrating the Eucharist, we need to fully participate in the liturgy. Each of us needs to sing out, giving glory to God. I invite you to give glory to God, to sing out to God in the pews, in the adult choir, in the children's choir and through the playing of a musical instrument.

Music in church is not a performance—it is both an individual and corporate prayer. It is a vehicle by which we can praise God and experience His love. When we sing heartily from the pews, no matter how good or bad our voice is, we bring joy to the Lord and to one another while at the same time deepening our faith.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.



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