

Liturgy Matters Lesson #4 - "Bishop Presides Over the Sacred Liturgy"

By Bishop Chad Zielinski

Thank you for joining me as we continue our lessons on "What Happens at Mass."

In imagining our ideal celebration, we should also include the bishop as the one who presides at the liturgy. Even though our usual experience is with a priest presiding, we must understand that behind every priest is the bishop who ordained him and sent him to a particular community to lead the Eucharistic celebration. In what God has arranged for His people, there is really only one priest, Christ himself. Those whom we call bishops and priests represent the one and only priest, Christ himself. They are mysteries or sacraments, concrete people in whom a divine reality is hidden.

In the case of Mass, they are the reality of Christ as priest. The bishop is the head of a diocesan Church, its leader, and chief authority. But he is not this as an individual person, the lucky guy who gets to be in charge. He represents Christ as the head, the leader, and the community's only authority. Likewise, a priest is not a free-floating agent, the one who gets to be in charge in a parish setting. He represents the bishop, who represents Christ as head of the community. However, it is important to remember that Christ shares his priesthood with all the baptized. If the bishop or priest at the head of the Eucharistic assembly is meant to be a sign of the one priesthood of Christ, all his words and actions during the rite are geared toward uniting the people with him in what he is doing. Precisely in the Mass, Christ wishes to unite all his people with himself in his priestly act of offering himself to the Father for the sake of the world. In this sense, Christ's people are priests, not because they represent his one and only priesthood as bishops and priests do, but because they are united with him in his priestly act.

I want to extend a "shout out" and a huge thanks to all the priests in the Diocese of New Ulm who lay down their lives in sacrifice so multiple Masses may be offered to the good people of God scattered throughout the diocese. Also, I thank you, good faithful of God, for your "yes" to Christ and your baptismal priesthood. Thanks for being united to me, your shepherd, and to the priests in announcing the Good News of the Gospel.

May God continue to strengthen us as we grow closer to Him through our understanding and participation in the Holy Mass. Let us keep one another in prayer. May God bless you and your families.

Sincerely in Christ,
Bishop Chad Zielinski

2023 Convention

April 29th, 2023

Church of St. Mary ❖ 417 S. Minnesota St. ❖ New Ulm, MN

I AM the Bread of Life

7:30 AM Registration/Free-will Offering Breakfast/Silent Auction	11:00 AM Mass
8:00 AM Rosary	12:15 PM Lunch
8:30 AM General Assembly	1:30 PM Blessed Carlo Presentation
9:00 AM Keynote Speaker – Liz Kelly	2:30 PM Closing Prayer
10:15 AM Business Meeting	3:00 PM Drawings
10:45 AM Woman of the Year	



Liz Kelly is a retreat leader and the award-winning author of ten books. Her most recent book, *Love Like A Saint, Cultivating Virtue with Holy Women* has been called “penetrating and graceful,” “a source of encouragement and hope,” and “a beautiful deep dive into the lives of inspirational, holy women.” Kelly received her certification as a spiritual director from the Cenacle of our Lady of Divine Providence School of Spirituality in association with the Franciscan University of Steubenville in 2015. Visit her website at LizK.org.



Blessed Carlo and Miracles of the Eucharist – Presentation on the life and work of Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) by Berny Berger, St. Willibrord's CCW president, to include the EWTN video “I am With You” about his life. Will include a review of some of the major Eucharistic Miracles (several very recent) included in an exhibit he created, which is now sponsored by the Vatican.

Contact your CCW President, Parish Office or the NUDCCW website for a registration form.

\$85 if registered before April 10

\$40 if postmarked after April 10

\$10 to attend only Liz Kelly's presentation

