

## THE LITURGY

Pope Paul calls the CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY an inspired blueprint guiding the revitalization of the entire Church. Father Rahner has written that the liturgical CONSTITUTION invites us to revise our very conception of the Religious Life and its place in the Mystical Body. He points out that the Church expresses through Religious Communities part of her very essence described in the introductory section of the CONSTITUTION:

It is of the essence of the Church that she be both human and divine, visible and yet invisibly equipped, eager to act and yet intent on contemplation, present in this world and yet not at home in it. She is all of these things in such wise that in her the human is directed and subordinated to the divine, the visible likewise to the invisible, action to contemplation, and this present world to that city yet to come which we seek.

From the liturgy, especially from the celebration of the Eucharist as from a fount, grace is poured forth on us and the glorification of God and the sanctification of men - the two goals of all religious communities - are accomplished in the most efficacious way.

The liturgy, through which our redemption is accomplished, draws the religious community into the compelling love of Christ and enables us to be one in holiness in Him. Lived in its deepest and most complete dimensions, our lives are plunged into Christ's Paschal Mystery by uniting our sufferings, mortifications, and joys to His Passion, death, and Resurrection. The Paschal Mystery is thus no idle speculation. It touches us where things hurt, and where it can heal. St. Paul wrote, "The whole of created nature groans in a common travail all the while." This 'common travail' is a pattern of existence which can be expressed by the words we have used to describe the Paschal Mystery: death-life. Not a mere sequence, not life after death, not die first and then you may live, but life through death, life and expansion and fulfillment arising out of an experience of death, diminishment, deprivation, death as the very birth of life. Thus the Paschal Mystery will become increasingly vivid, real, and powerful in our lives as our sacramental worship engages hearts, minds, and bodies, and as it makes of us a true community - one in worship, in love, and in truth in Christ.

Given by:

Mother Mary Paulita Morris, R.S.M.