

EPISODE 02 – Intelligent Worship

1. How can we use our intellects to participate more fully in the Mass?
 - Intellect is defined as “the power or faculty of the mind by which one knows or understands, as distinguished from that by which one feels and that by which one wills; the understanding; the faculty of thinking and acquiring knowledge.” More fully participating in the Mass then would require me to use my mind to understand the Mass.
 - I have attended Mass all of my life. In my early youth I would say that I was present but that I had little understanding. In Catholic grade school I learned more about the prayers, the scriptures, the traditions, and such. I was an altar server who learned and recited prayers in Latin that I did not fully understand. Over the years I have come to know more and more about the Mass because I have used my intellect to seek to understand what we do at Mass and why we do it. I also recognize that even though I have come to know more, there is still much that I do not fully understand and the books and articles I have read indicate to me that I am not alone in this.
 - My answer to this question would then be that I must use my intellect to continue to study and learn, to dig deeper, to meditate, and pray that I receive the graces to reveal more and more to me. Most likely there will be no end to this quest in my life time but perhaps in eternity, bit by bit, I may at some point fully understand the Mass or last feel satisfied in my knowledge.
2. What prayers of the Mass would you like to understand more deeply?
 - The easy answer here for me would be “all of them”. However, it is not the words of the prayers or even their meaning that elude my understanding. For me the question is why God, our creator, our lover, has setup this means for us to communicate, for us to worship Him, to express our mutual love for each other, and so much more? We express our love. We ask for forgiveness. We give thanks. We ask for assistance.
 - What I have found that God answers my question when I most need it. In my prayer at Mass, my conversation with God, we talk and I listen. When I truly listen, I often find that the answer is right there in the prayers of the Mass. Prayers I have heard time and time again. Always there for me waiting for the day when I needed to really hear it and understand it.
3. What do our minds tell us about our dependence on God?
 - God has shown just how great His love for us is in that although He created us to love Him and His people, He has set us free to choose who and how we love, and how we live. In my youth I thought that it I had to fend for myself. If I was to succeed in life and love, it was up to me to make it happen. Experience in life, sometimes painful, has taught me that my greatest successes were not those I achieved by depending on myself, but those I achieved when I turned them over to God and He

surprised me, or He chose to show me how much He loves me with His free gift.

- It is in those experiences that I have come to understand that I am totally dependent on God. This is His creation, His sandbox. I am part of that creation and I am ever grateful for His most perfect Fatherhood and every effort He makes to perfect me.
4. If every heartbeat is a gift from God, if God holds us in existence even at this moment, what should be our response?
- Thank YOU!