

EPISODE 06 – Signs and Symbols

1. In what ways are created things used in the Mass?
 - In the creed we say that we believe in God and that he created all that is seen and unseen. We are his creation, and he has given us the ability to experience the rest of his creation through the five senses he has endowed us with, as well as, the intelligence to experience his creation for things that we cannot normally sense, for example, ultraviolet light which is invisible to our eyes but can be sensed through instrumentation we have created.
 - In essence all that we experience in the Mass from the people, the building, the music, the words, the odors, and more, are all a product of God's creation.
 - In special ways these created things are used to divert our minds from a focus on the created world to a focus on the creator. For example:
 - Artwork depicts our faith in many ways
 - Music draws us into the heavenly praise and worship of God
 - Stories recall the faith events of the past
 - The homily helps us to apply meaning to our lives
 - Bread and wine are changed in substance to the body and blood of Christ
 - Water, oil, incense, and more provide a touch point of this created world to the infinite creativity of God
2. What events or images from the Sacred Scriptures can you recognize in the celebration of the Mass?
 - Music and songs – with the Psalms being a prime source for these
 - Stories of faith experienced and lived – the prophets, the saints
 - Water – a reminder of our Baptism, God's mercy, forgiveness of sins
 - Oil and Incense used on some occasions tie into the faith liturgies of the old testament
 - Bread and wine, people gathered around a table for a meal.
 - Processions with song and dance
 - Petitions to God for forgiveness, healing, faith, understanding, and more
 - Thanksgiving for favors and graces received
3. What are some of the signs in the liturgy that you would like to better understand? How do the words the Church uses manifest the meaning of these signs?
 - On some level I believe I understand all of the signs and symbols in the Liturgy, however, experience has taught me that the depth and breadth of my understanding can always be improved. The words in the liturgy help with that improvement, but what helps me more is the select a specific sign or symbol and read about it, study it, meditate upon it, and pray for inspiration from the Holy Spirit.