

EPISODE 11 – Unity and Diversity in the Mass

1. Why is unity of expression the Church's most important value in the celebration of Mass?
 - We are the body of Christ gathered to worship and pray. We are gathered as one body, so we must pray as one body. We are called to love God most of all and our neighbors as ourselves. It is when we do this together that this love is expressed as it should be.
 - We have an audience with the King, our Lord, our God. He is not there just for me but for us all. His love is for us all, no exceptions. So we in unity must return that love to Him.
 - I can go to church outside of Mass and meet privately with the Lord who is there before me in the tabernacle. However, when I am there at Mass, there is a sense of belonging, not only to God but to each other. There is also a sense of community, a sharing of lives, a confession of sins, an appeal for mercy and forgiveness. In each of these things there is diversity but in the common worship and prayers there is unity.
2. What can you do to foster a deeper sense of unity in the liturgical assembly?
 - Join the other members of the assembly in every song, prayer, expression, and other elements of the Mass. Show in my participation that we are in this together as the body of Christ.
3. What roles are played by humility, patience, and charity during Mass?
 - Humility – we are all sinners who are deeply in need of mercy and forgiveness
 - Patience – we are together in exile, on a pilgrim journey. We must be patient with each other as we walk toward eternity.
 - Charity – love is all that I really have that I can give to God and to my neighbors. Everything else I have and can give is ultimately from God. So it is in sharing what I have to give that I express my charity. It is when I do this in unity with others that we as a people shine as the children of God.