

EPISODE 14 – What is the Collect?

1. How can we be more disciplined in our participation at Mass so that we mean what we say?
 - It is not easy to leave the world behind with its problems, worries, concerns, etc., and focus on the kingdom of heaven which is my goal.
 - It helps me to arrive early at Mass, to be able to pray in silence, to take a moment to review where I am in my life and this journey out of exile. It is at such a time that I can “collect” and prepare what I want to say to God in this Mass.
 - If there is no silence I can focus on a sacramental such as a Crucifix, a Statue, a Picture, etc. I can use this point of focus to change my mindset from the world to my love for God and neighbor.
2. What are the recurring concerns you like to bring to prayer during the Mass?
 - I know of my sins, they are ever remembered by me. I thank God for His mercy and forgiveness but I am concerned for the moments I will fail once again and fall into sin. It is so easy to fall out of step with Jesus and into step with the world about me. I know I am not worthy so I bring all of my petitions for the grace I need to love God and neighbor more to God. These petitions are not only for myself but for all those God has given me to love and serve in my life.
 - I begin my day early with meditation and prayer. I read the readings for the day. I use Lectio Divina to meditate on Scripture I have selected the day before for mediation today. I use an Examen prayer to review where I have been and where I am going. If I do this well, then I am prepared to bring my concerns to God at Mass.
3. The Collects first address God, then they present a petition. What connection can you make between this prayer and yours?
 - The connection I can make is to silently add my petitions to those expressed by the priest in the Collect.