

EPISODE 31 – The Dismissal

1. How would you describe the relationship between liturgy and life?
 - One of the definitions of liturgy is that it is the work that God does for his people. My creation, my continued existence, my hope are all dependent on God. Were it not for him I would not be, I would have no existence, no life. He has created me out of love to love him and his people. He has been faithful to me all the moments of my life. The fact that one way that God would support me in my pilgrim journey through this life is with a work specifically created for me and all his people...the liturgy.
 - I cannot say that I have always come to Mass seeking that support, especially in those times when I came out of a sense of obligation and was deeply distracted by the world outside the Mass. However, God has been patient with me and over the years has taught me that the help I need to find comfort, joy, and hope can be found in the Mass. I just need to slow down, pray, listen, meditate, and then the work he is doing for me in the Mass will come to rest in me and give me exactly what I need for this journey.
2. What other parts of the Mass point to the Christian's mission in the world?
 - If the liturgy is the work that God does for his people, then it is not a work that is exclusive to those in attendance at Mass. It is a work that enables us to bring our worries, concerns, needs, sorrows, etc., to God and to receive from him that which we need for ourselves but also for us to bring out to the world. In the Mass we obtain food for our journey and that which we receive we also can and should give. Not only should, but must.
 - Specifically in the Mass there are the prayers we say for ourselves and others. The donation of our treasure, our time, our talents to provide support for our parish and community. There is the socialization that occurs both before and after Mass where we are able to give and receive love from our community of believers.
 - In many, if not all, of the prayers said by the priest and by us in the Mass there is some element of our mission, our purpose, namely to love God with all of our being, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. None are excluded from our prayers.