

Dear Friends

Today I am resuming the series of columns on the Mass. I began writing these two years ago and am attempting to go through the Mass step by step. The last column I wrote on this (October 19, 2014) focused on the preparation of the altar for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I reviewed the purpose of the altar cloth, the corporal, and the purificators. Today I am looking at the vessels we use for the Eucharist and at the Roman Missal.

There are two primary sacred vessels used in the celebration of Mass.

- ❖ **The chalice.** The word *chalice* derives from the Latin word *calyx* which means *cup*. The chalice is then a type of cup which contains the wine to be offered and consecrated into the Blood of Christ. Usually the chalice has three parts: a cup at the top of sufficient size, a base that is broad enough to make the chalice stable, and a decorative knob in the middle where the cup and base are joined.
- ❖ **The paten or ciborium.** Technically, the paten is a shallow bowl or dish which holds the bread that is to be offered and consecrated into the Body of Christ. The ciborium is a larger bowl that contains the bread to be consecrated for the Eucharist or bread that has already been consecrated at a previous Mass and reserved in the tabernacle. A ciborium almost always has a lid.

These sacred vessels are to be made of some solid, worthy, non-porous material. Usually, they are made of metal with at least the top surface of the paten or ciborium and the inner lining of the chalice being silver or gold plated. The idea is that we honor Christ our Lord by utilizing the most precious things we have for the vessels in which he will make himself sacramentally present.

The *Roman Missal* is the large book placed on the altar as it is prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This book contains all the prayers for the celebration of Mass – those that are part of every Mass and those that are special for each day. The official text for all of these prayers is in Latin and has been approved by the Apostolic See, which has also approved our English translation. The translation now being used was just approved and issued in 2011.

Next weekend I will continue these columns on the Mass. You can find all sixteen of them on the parish website at www.stmargaret.org, clicking on the Information tab and then clicking on Bulletins. They are listed at the top of that page.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.
Father Mike