



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

LIVING  
OUR  
*Relationship*  
WITH  
JESUS CHRIST



The Year of Faith  
"will also be a  
good opportunity  
to intensify the  
celebration of the  
faith in the liturgy,  
especially in the  
Eucharist."

(PORTA FIDEI, 9)

# Vatican II | *What Difference Does it Make?*

DOCUMENT: **SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM**  
*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*

**F**ifty years ago, Vatican II began its work by reflecting upon the Church's ritual prayer. The result was the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. As its first document, the constitution concretized the conciliar vision for the Church's liturgical renewal and articulated the Council's principal goals.

In its opening paragraph, the bishops named the Council's four goals: the renewal of Christian life; the adaptation of some ecclesial institutions to address the needs of contemporary society; the promotion of ecumenism; and the expansion of the Church's efforts at evangelization. The reform of the liturgy was essential to achieving these goals since the liturgy reveals and strengthens the Church's true identity. It is the liturgy that empowers God's People to carry on the mission of Christ in the Spirit. The constitution proposed that the liturgy would be a catalyst for accomplishing these goals.

The constitution offers the Church's fundamental teaching on the liturgy.

It presents the liturgy as first and foremost the action of Christ. It is the primary means by which we participate in His Paschal Mystery, in His saving death, resurrection, and glorification. As such, none of us are meant to be passive observers at our ritual prayer. Rather, the liturgy challenges the community to participate fully, actively, and consciously in this saving Mystery. In doing so, Christ present - in the Church's ministers, in the community of faith, in the Word proclaimed, and in the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist - transforms us and sends us to continue His mission. Therefore, the liturgy is the best means for us to give God glory and to grow in holiness.

The constitution did not just change the way we pray. It called us to embrace the liturgy as the action of the whole Body - all of us worshipping in union with Christ.

*Rev. Michael G. Woost*

## Reflection Questions

1. **In your most recent celebration of the Eucharist, how did Christ speak to or touch your life?**
2. **How does the liturgy of the Church help you to grow in your relationship with God and others?**
3. **In this Year of Faith, what might you do to deepen your own experience of participating in the liturgical life of our community?**

## Document Quote

*"Nevertheless, the liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the fount from which all her power flows."*

(CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY, 10)

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