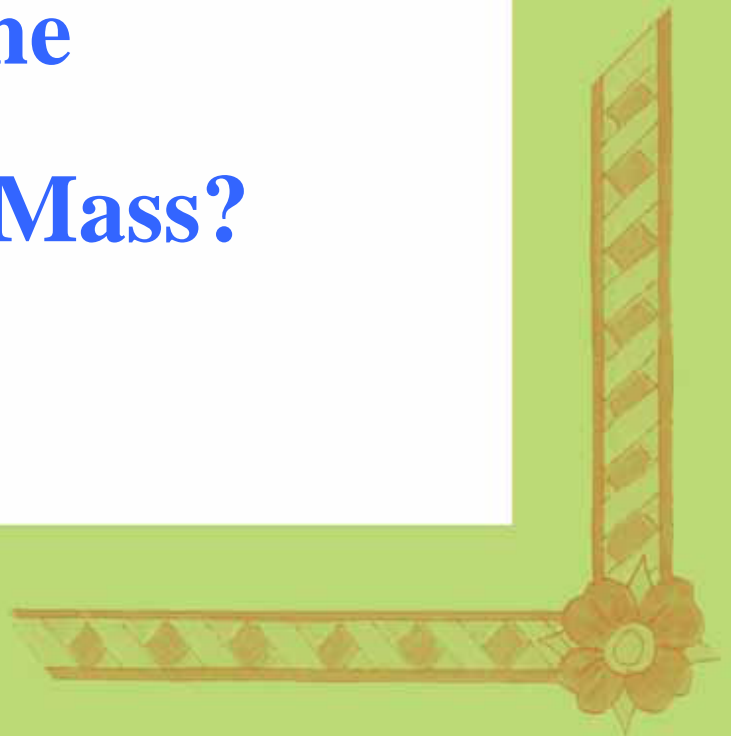




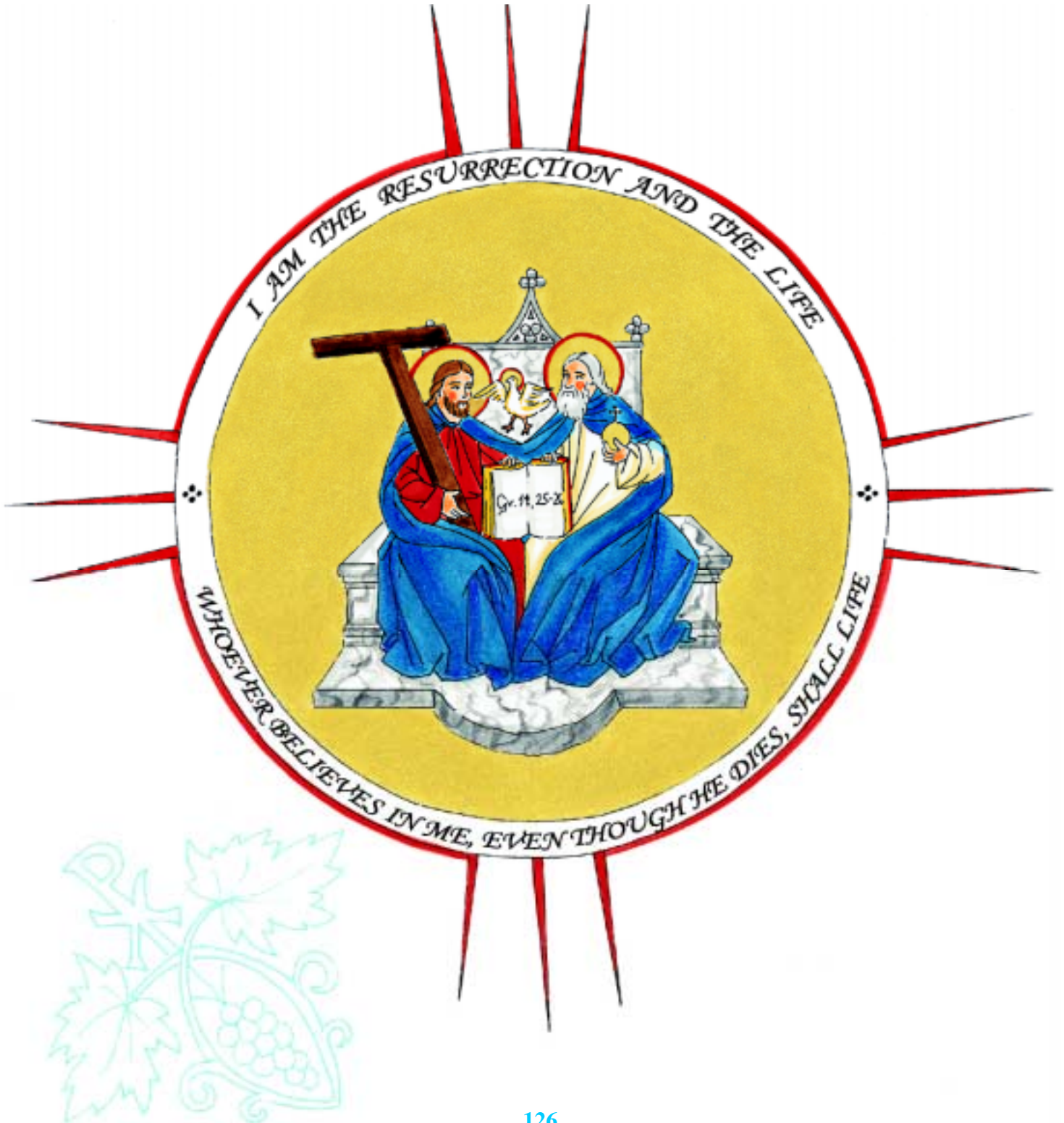


## **Chapter III**

# **Who celebrates the Holy Mass?**



There are many persons who are present and each person has a different and important role to play: the Most Holy Trinity, the Church (the faithful who are pilgrims on the earth, the heavenly Church, the deceased in Purgatory) the whole of humanity, creation.





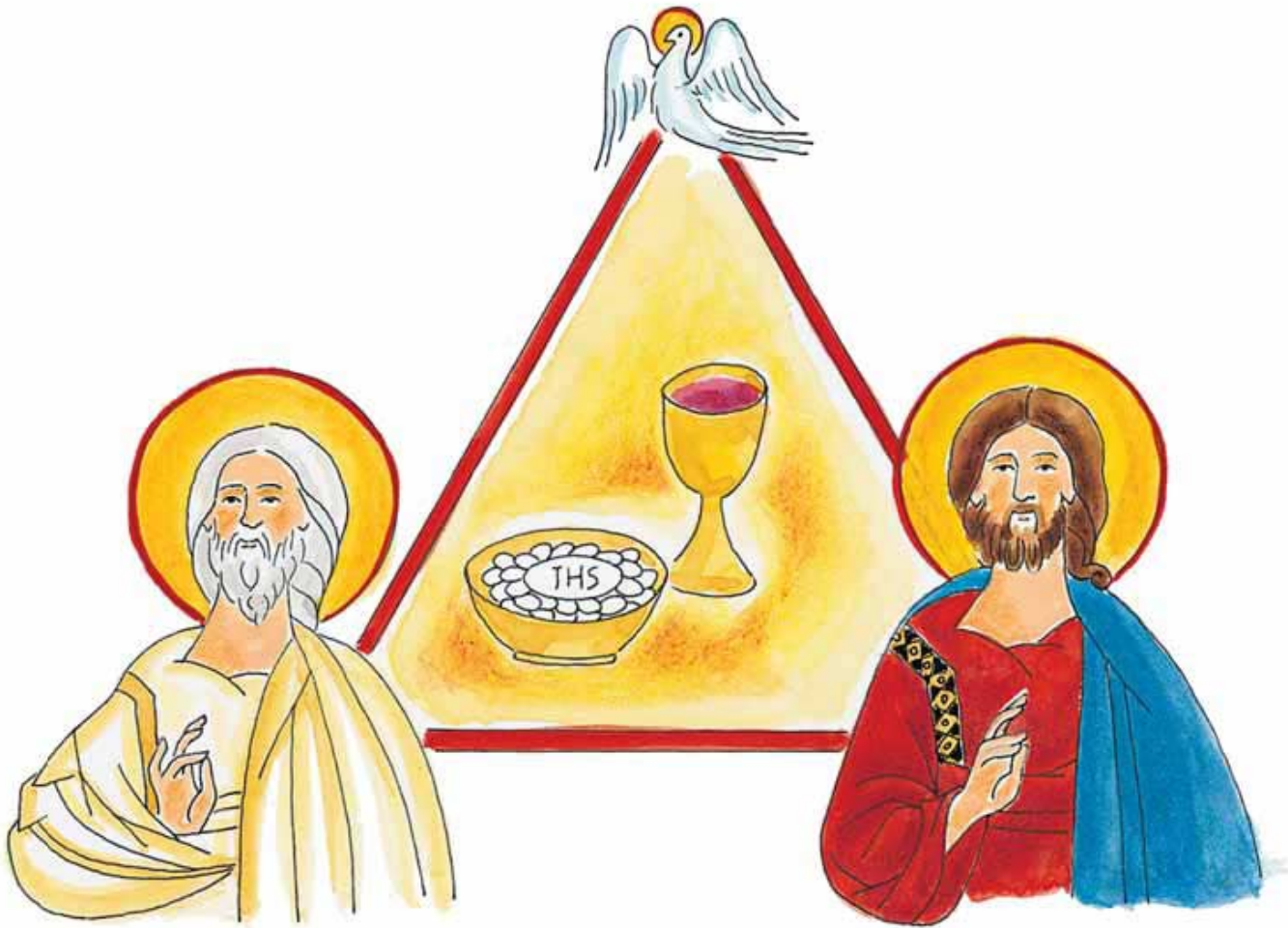
42 How is the Most Holy Trinity active during the celebration of the Holy Mass?



The Father gives us his only Son.

For this reason we give praise and thanks to God the Father.

The Holy Spirit:  
helps us to understand and to live out the Word of God;  
changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ;  
unites us in love to Christ and to each other.



The Father gives us his only Son

Jesus Christ is the principal minister who acts



Jesus Christ is the principal minister at the Holy Mass.



He is the Victim, the Mediator, our Food.



He is:

- The one who makes the offering and the offering itself;
- the Priest, through whom we are all reconciled;
- the Sacrifice who reconciles us;
- God, to whom we are reconciled;
- The Temple, in which we are reconciled.



Makes present His Paschal Sacrifice (**Memorial**).



He makes it present in a real way with his Body and Blood in the bread and wine that are consecrated by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Transubstantiation**).



He becomes our food and drink for our eternal salvation (**Banquet**).





## The Holy Spirit.



The Holy Spirit helps us to understand better the Word of God that is proclaimed during the Holy Mass and to put it into action in our daily lives.



By his power he changes the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.



He unites us in love to Christ and each other.

**“We, who are many, are one body in Christ”** (1 Cor 10,17).



Gives strength to those who participate so that they will be able to become a spiritual offering that is pleasing to the Father, and to give themselves to each other so as to live according to the sacrament that they celebrate.



Ensures that the whole community becomes more and more the body of Christ.







43 In what way does the Church (the pilgrim Church on earth) participate in the Holy Mass?

The Church celebrates with a priest celebrant and the members of the faithful.



44 What is the role of the priest in the Holy Mass?

The priest (Bishop or priest) is the minister without whom it is not possible to have Holy Mass: he is consecrated with a special Sacrament (the Sacrament of Order).



The priest:



obeys the command of Christ, and does what Christ did at the Last Supper.



presides and acts *in persona Christi capitis*, that is, in the name and in the person of Christ the Head: the person who actuates the Eucharist is Jesus Christ, and the priest is his visible instrument.



represents the Church: he acts *in persona Ecclesiae*, that is to say in the name of the Church, and as such he gathers together the prayers of the whole Church.



intercedes before the Father with the faithful and for the faithful.



45 What is the role of the faithful in the Holy Mass?

The lay faithful who participate in the Holy Mass:



Listen attentively to the Word of God.

Unite themselves to Christ's Sacrifice and to his prayer of intercession.

Receive Holy Communion with devotion.

With the help they receive from God in the Eucharist they strive to live what they have celebrated during the Holy Mass in their daily lives.



46 In what way does the Heavenly Church participate in the Holy Mass?

Those who are now in the glory of heaven are united to the offering of Christ in the Holy Mass: the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Angels, and all the Saints.



## 47 Why is the Holy Mass also relevant to those who have died?

Because the Eucharistic Sacrifice is also offered for those who have died in Christ and who have not been fully purified. They wait in Purgatory for the blessed day when they can see God face to face. We pray for them during the Holy Mass asking God to show mercy to them, and that he might purify them with the fire of his charity and bring them into his kingdom of light and life: Paradise. To pray for the faithfully departed is a debt of charity that we do for their benefit as well as being a prayerful expression of our communion with the Saints. It is a praiseworthy and noble gesture on the part of the lay faithful to have a Holy Mass celebrated for their deceased family members, relatives and loved ones.



## How is the whole of humanity involved in the Holy Mass?



In the Eucharistic offering of the bread and wine, the fruits of the earth and of man's labor, are presented to God along with all the riches and poverty of all humanity.





During the Holy Mass we pray for the needs of all people throughout the world, in particular for those who are most needy. When we participate in the Holy Mass we help each other in an effective and concrete way. The Holy Mass is, in fact, a privileged source of justice, sharing, peace, reconciliation and forgiveness for all people.











The Eucharist is always celebrated in the world on an altar, and it unites heaven and earth.



49

## In what way is the creation present at the Holy Mass?



All of creation, which is loved by God, participates in the Holy Mass in that:



it provides the bread and wine, the fruits of the earth and work of human hands, that become the Body and Blood of Christ;



it is presented to the Father through the Death and Resurrection of Christ;



it is assumed by Christ the Redeemer in order to be transformed in his love;



it gives praise and thanks to God for all that He has freely and generously given.





The Eucharistic Celebration anticipates and prefigures the transformation that Creation will undergo at the end of time: just as the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ, so too all of Creation will be transformed by God and will become the **“new Heavens and the new Earth”**.





In this way Creation participates in the “new creation,” that was inaugurated at the Resurrection of Christ, the *new Adam*.

