

### The Oblation – (Part 6 of The Eucharistic Prayer) – What do YOU have to OFFER?

This part of the Eucharistic prayer is called the oblation, which means offering, and it comes right after the mystery of faith as well as the anamnesis (or remembering). As we mentioned at the beginning of our journey through the Eucharistic prayer, it is important to see each part separately in order to help us understand it as richly as possible. Here is a quick outline once again just as a reminder:

- The Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)
- **The Eucharistic Prayer:** (Anaphora – “to carry back” – brings us back to the Upper Room/Cross/Resurrection and the entire paschal mystery present to us now) {10 different options, but 4 main options Eucharistic Prayers I, II, III and IV}
  - o The Epiclesis (*calling down the Holy Spirit*)
  - o The Institution Narrative and Consecration (*Transubstantiation occurs!*)
    - \* The Mystery of Faith (*and response from the people*)
  - o The Anamnesis (*Remembering, but in a sacramental sense*)
  - o **The Oblation** (*The offering – prayers specific to that*)
  - o The Intercessions (*General and specific intercessions*)
  - o The Doxology and Amen (*Conclusion and THE GREAT AMEN!*)
- The Our Father, etc.....

Once we have this reminder of where we have been and where we are going, we can focus in on the purpose of the oblation prayers within the Eucharistic Prayer. The key words or phrases to pay close attention to is that you will hear is that the priest is offering the person of Jesus to God the Father. As we said before, this is the profound truth that Jesus’ one sacrifice for us 2,000 years ago becomes present to us at every Mass. In addition, the other key words to look for are the words about **our sacrifice** that **we offer to God** during each Mass. Look at the words in Eucharistic Prayer III: “Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church...” or “May he make of us an eternal offering to you”.

The question is, what can YOU possibly OFFER to God the Father? Jesus offers Himself as the perfect lamb to wipe away our sins, but Jesus also invites us to be united to Himself in the Eucharist and to offer our prayers, efforts, sufferings, joys, and sacrifices so that Jesus can make them worthy to be offered to God the Father as a spiritual gift. In other words, Jesus is taking all of our weak, imperfect, human efforts, prayers, and sacrifices and uniting them to Himself in order to make everything we do a spiritually fruitful prayer! All we need to do is keep trying our best and also realize that Jesus wants us to spend time offering Him everything we strive to do throughout our entire week. At every Mass, we are meant to remember that Jesus takes all our actions, thoughts, words, successes and failures from our week, and He unites us to His suffering, death, and resurrection, so that we can become like Him more and more in perfect self-sacrificial love. Our spiritual offering to God at every Mass can be the most powerful prayer we make during our entire lives because it is truly Jesus making it spiritually fruitful through His perfect sacrifice. May we ask God to help us remember this truth at every Mass, so that we can offer our entire week to Jesus as a prayer, and He can make our offerings worthy, holy, and fruitful for our loved ones and for the salvation of the whole world. Amen.