

The Offertory – Part 2 – Water & Wine with the Quiet Priest Prayers

After the *presentation of the gifts* when they are brought up the aisle and given to the priest, the altar is setup and organized for the eucharistic prayers. One aspect of this is when the priest pours the wine into the chalice, which will become the blood of Christ during the prayers of consecration (Jesus' prayers at the Last Supper, which we continue to pray every Sunday according to Jesus' command). One little part of this you might notice is that the priest pours a tiny bit of water into the chalice after he had already poured the wine into it. During this mixture of water and wine, the priest says a quiet prayer that maybe only the altar servers might hear where he says, "**By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.**"

The deep meaning and symbolic value of this action and quiet prayer is quite beautiful. The water intermingles and is truly united to the wine (not staying disconnected from it like oil for example would stay separate as a top layer of liquid), and this signifies God's desire in His infinite power with His spiritual divine being to truly unite Himself to our broken, mortal human nature and our physical bodies. In addition, we can remember and think about the miracle of the wedding at Cana where Jesus turns water into wine at a marriage feast (John 2:1-11). This first miracle actually points to His purpose in coming to earth, which is where on the Cross after dying for our sins, blood and water together pour out from His side to signify a miraculous confirmation that He has died for us as well as He desires us to participate in His very Divine Life once He rises from the dead (John 19:33-34)! This is the true and ultimate marriage feast that we hear about throughout the New Testament as well (see Revelation 19:1-9; Mt. 25:1-13; Eph. 5:32; Lk. 12:36). God wants us to participate in His very Divine Life starting now and continuing throughout all eternity. May we ask Christ to help us understand this more and more at every Catholic Mass we attend, so that during the offertory and the preparation of the gifts/setting of the altar, we may see the marital imagery in the chalice, the symbolic actions, and the symbolic prayers. This is all for the purpose of allowing the symbolism to help us pray and prepare our hearts for the reality of Jesus becoming truly present to us under the form of bread and wine so that we can participate in His very Divine Life every time we come to Mass!