

# REMEMBER

## Objective

To describe the consecration, Mystery of Faith, and Great Amen

## Faith Focus

**What do we remember and give thanks for during the Eucharistic Prayer?**

List children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

## We Remember and Give Thanks

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph.
- Recall that Catholics come together as a community to worship, and to praise and thank God.
- Summarize the second paragraph, and emphasize the role of the priest as the leader of prayer.
- After summarizing the text, discuss why we pray for one another and for people who have died. **Possible responses:** We pray for one another because we need help from prayer to live good lives; we pray for those who have died to help them be closer to God.

## Blessed Sacrament

- Refer to pages 82–87 in the Words of Faith glossary.
- If possible, visit your parish church to show children where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle.

## We Remember and Give Thanks

REMEMBER



### Blessed Sacrament

The consecrated Bread and Wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus. They are called the Blessed Sacrament. After Mass the remaining Hosts are placed in a special place called a **tabernacle**. The tabernacle is usually in a chapel or some other special place in the church. We keep the Blessed Sacrament there so it can be brought to parish members who are ill and cannot be present. We can also spend time before the tabernacle praying to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.



## Faith Focus

**What do we remember and give thanks for during the Eucharistic Prayer?**

At the Last Supper, Jesus and the disciples remembered the Passover story. They said special prayers of thanks. We call the Eucharist "The Lord's Supper."

During the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest joins all of our prayers into one. He prays in our name and the name of the Church. We take part in the prayer, too. During the prayer, we remember all the ways that God has saved us. We offer ourselves to God with Jesus. We share in Jesus' dying and rising through the power of the Holy Spirit. We remember and we say, "Thank you."

The priest asks God to accept our sacrifice. We pray that God will make us holy, like the saints who are in heaven with him. We pray for one another. We offer the Mass for the people who have died.



## Liturgical Background

**Revised Roman Missal** On November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent, we began to use a revised translation of the text of the Mass. Throughout the history of the Church, there have been only a few times when **official** changes in the text of the Mass prayers have occurred, and it is important to remember that the key elements of Catholic worship have remained constant since the time of the early Church.

None of the changes, including the Third Edition of the *Roman Missal*, ever changes the original ritual and essence of Jesus' words or actions at the Last Supper. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church, from apostolic time to the present, preserves the fundamental structure of the Mass everywhere in the Church. The Mass is the center of the Church's life.

## Consecration

An important part of the Eucharistic Prayer is the **consecration**. The priest says the words Jesus did at the Last Supper. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

After the consecration we remember that Jesus gave his life for us. The priest says or sings the words: "The mystery of faith." We answer with a special response. This response is called the **Mystery of Faith**.

## The Great Amen

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest prays the prayer that begins,

"Through him, and with him, and in him."

We answer, "Amen."

This response is the Great Amen. We say "yes" to God's promises. We praise him for his gifts and saving actions.

**?** How is the Eucharist like the Last Supper?

### Faith at Home

Review your child's response to the question. Go over the meaning of the word *Amen*. Go through the Eucharistic Prayer on these pages with your child. Familiarize your child with the responses to the prayer.



## Sacrament Background

**Doxology** The Eucharistic Prayer ends with a prayer often called the Great Amen. However, "Amen" is an immediate response to a doxology, which is a prayer expressing glory to the triune God, the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

It has been customary from earliest times that all public prayer closes with praise of God. Historically consistent, the doxology reminds us of the essential purpose of all prayer: we bow before our Creator.

No matter what form the Eucharistic Prayer has taken through the ages, the doxology has always been its conclusion and the wording of the doxology has always been emphatic. Here around this altar and table, God does receive honor and praise.



## Consecration

Write the terms *consecration*, *Mystery of Faith*, and *Great Amen* on the board or on chart paper. As you define each term, invite a child to come up and place a check mark next to the term.

- Read the text aloud, and help children recall when the consecration occurs during the Mass.
- Use the photograph to show the priest's gestures during the consecration.
- If your parish customarily uses a particular Mystery of Faith, help the children recall it, and practice it as a group.

## The Great Amen

- Remind children that *Amen* means "so be it" or "yes."
- Read the text aloud to show the significance of this prayer.
- ?** Discuss the question. Possible responses: It is a gathering of people who love Jesus; it is a meal; it is a remembrance of Jesus' love for us; it is a prayer.

### Activity Master

You may wish to use Activity Master 6 on page CE13 to guide children in naming what they want to thank God for and for whom they want to pray.



▲ Activity Master 6

## Review

- We recall the Last Supper at the Eucharist.
- The consecration, the Mystery of Faith, and the Great Amen are part of the Eucharistic Prayer.