



LITURGICAL ORIENTATION

Connecting Liturgy, Life and Mission

The liturgy is the ritual action during which we are immersed in Christ's death and resurrection. Through the celebration we are transformed into being able to live more perfectly Christ's life and mission. The liturgy in a sense reminds us of who we are and how we are to live. Both the *Liturgy* and *Life* are about Jesus who was sent by his Father to be God's saving personal presence among us. He was on a mission! He was engrossed in his task. He allowed nothing to deter from accomplishing what we had been sent to do. Nothing – not even rejection, scoffing, suffering and death. As Jesus sent his disciples to announce the Good News to all so through our Baptism we as Jesus' followers are also sent. To that extent we unite ourselves with Jesus' saving mission. Like Jesus we cannot let anything deter us from making known God's loving presence, offering the hope of everlasting life, caring for the sick, helping the poor, fighting for justice and peace. This is the living Gospel. Jesus' life is now our life. Jesus' mission is now our mission.

The sentiments sometimes expressed is: *I don't get anything out of Mass!* In this era of self-improvement people expect results. There should therefore be some connection between our sincere beliefs and the way we live our lives. Connecting *Liturgy, Life and Mission* means that our liturgical celebrations, especially our Sunday Liturgy can no longer simply be actions we go to, that have little to do with our everyday living. For too many people the Sunday liturgy is the only time of the week they consciously turn their attention to God. Connecting *Liturgy, Life and Mission* means that we begin to see every moment of every day as turned to God, that God is truly the center of our lives, that God's will is our will, that Jesus' mission is our mission. This means that our whole life becomes a kind of prayer – it indeed means that we turn to God in prayer more than an hour a week on Sunday. We begin to realize that our very life is God's life, that all we have and do is a gift from God, that our most life-giving relationship is the one we have with God.