

KNOW YOUR FAITH - VIII

Liturgy Continued – Some false thoughts

What is the holy moment in the Eucharist?

For Roman Catholics when the Verba or Words of Institution are said, the priest elevates or holds up the Host and then the Chalice and there is a moment of reverence as they believe the bread is no longer bread and the wine is no longer wine. Before the 1960's this was referred to as Transubstantiation when things changed but for some or many not true today. This is still a high spiritual moment for the faithful in any event. Christ is present.

For the Orthodox Church the most revered moment is called the Epiclesis which is a petition following the Verba that prays for the Holy Spirit to be present in the bread and wine. This too has some problems.

For many Lutherans it is in receiving the Eucharist in true faith that it has its most effect. This also presents some problems. This is referred to as "reception-ism."

All three are an attempt to put control in the hands of the church or the priest or the church member when it is God's gift in relationship.

Christ on one hand is always present where God's word is used and most of all in the relationship(s) that bring one to church, those within the church and those made outside the church in the name of Christ. It is ongoing, a gift of God, and both promise and promise realized. God is present like the wind and in God's timing. Not ours to control.