

# THE MASS – Lesson 5

## Our Role In the Mass

### THINK ABOUT IT.

1. It's your birthday and you've invited ten of your best friends to your birthday party. As they arrive, each wishes you a Happy Birthday, then heads to the nearest couch or chair and never talks to you again until it's time for cake. They talk to each other, but not to you. They don't even sing Happy Birthday when it's time. After the cake is served, they leave without saying a word. **HAVE YOUR FRIENDS SHOWN YOU THEY ARE TRUE FRIENDS?**
2. Your grandmother is very sick, so you go to visit her in the hospital. You walk into her room, give her a hug and a kiss, then sit in the corner and spend the next two hours watching the TV in her room. When done, you leave her room and out the way out, you say, "Later Grandma. I hope you feel better. Love ya." **HAVE YOU SHOWN YOUR GRANDMOTHER YOU TRULY LOVE HER? OR CARE ABOUT HER?**
3. You attend Sunday Mass. As you enter the church, God's home, you bless your self with Holy Water, find a seat, then stare blankly into space and daydream until the Mass ends. **HAVE YOU SHOWN GOD YOU ARE TRULY THANKFUL FOR HIM, APPRECIATE HIM AND WANT HIM IN YOUR LIFE?**

### THE CHURCH TEACHES

There is a temptation to consider the Mass as something that the priest or bishop celebrates and we observe. We should avoid that temptation! The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) says about the celebration of the Mass:

*"It is the **whole** community, the Body of Christ united with its Head, that celebrates"* (CCC 1140)

That is not to say that everyone has the same role in the celebration, though. The Catechism also points out that:

*"Certain members are called by God, in and through the Church, to a special service of community. These servants are chosen and consecrated by the Sacrament of Holy Orders, by which the Holy Spirit enables them to act in the person of Christ the head, for the service of all the members of the Church."*  
(CCC 1142)

**And:**

*"Servers, readers, commentators, and members of the choir also exercise [a] genuine . . . function."*  
(CCC 1143)

### REVIEW QUESTION.

1. As a member of the whole community, do you have a role in the Mass? What is it?

**THE NEXT TIME YOU ATTEND MASS.** Take a look at the missal in the pew and use it to take an active part in the Mass.