SESSION 17

Celebrating the Eucharist

Keep these ideas in mind as you study Unit 4, Session 17.

Transubstantiation is a term used to express the belief that Jesus is really present in the Eucharist. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass at the time of consecration.

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The Mass is the high point of Catholic life and follows a certain order.

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The Penitential Act is a prayer of sorrow for our sins. The Homily helps us understand God's Word and relates it to our lives.

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In the readings from the Old and New Testaments, in a book called the *Lectionary for Mass*, we hear the story of God's plan for Salvation.

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The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with a chalice for the Wine and a paten for the Bread being placed on the altar. The heart of the Mass is the Eucharistic Prayer, which begins with the Preface, a prayer to praise God.

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The Concluding Rite sends us forth on our mission as Catholics.

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The *Tantum Ergo*, a prayer that expresses adoration of Christ in the Eucharist, was written by Saint Thomas Aquinas.

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There are four main parts of the Mass, and with each part there are specific prayers, gestures, and actions.

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We celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus Christ under the appearance of Bread and Wine, the Blessed Sacrament.

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The Eucharistic liturgy remembers the sacrifice Jesus made for us. We participate by receiving the Eucharist, a memorial, or remembrance, of this sacrifice.

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