Lesson 14

The Worship of Catholicism: Celebrating With Symbols And Rituals

Sacraments, symbols and rituals are important part of Catholic life.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. **What are SYMBOLS?**
   Answer: Symbols are physical objects or things to which we connect special meaning and significance. Symbol expresses something connected to our feelings that we cannot see.

2. **What are RITUALS?**
   Answer: Rituals are symbols that include actions, gestures or movement. A short definition of ritual is “symbolic action”.

3. **What are the Symbols of Faith representing Catholic Identity called?**
   Answer: Sacramentals are Symbols of Faith representing Catholic Identity.

4. **Which Ritual action did Jesus use during the celebration of the Eucharist?**
   Answer: The celebration of the Eucharist began at the Last Supper, when Jesus used a **Ritual action** that was common for his people – **the breaking of bread.**

5. **Which are Church’ Six Liturgical seasons?**

Answer: The Church’ Six Liturgical seasons are as follows:

1. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (early December or sometimes the end of November) then move to,
2. Christmas,
3. Ordinary Time after Epiphany, comes from the Greek “epiphaneia”, which means “manifestation” or “to appear.” Epiphany falls on January 6, immediately after the Twelve Days of Christmas.
4. Lent, Triduum or Three Days before Easter,
5. Easter,
6. Pentecost and Ordinary Time again after Pentecost

6. **Which feast will mark the end of Church’ liturgical year?**

Answer: The Church’ liturgical year ends with **the feast of Christ the King** – this year the feast will be celebrated on Sun, 24 Nov 2024.

7. **Which are some of the Catholic Symbols of Faith?**
   Answer: Each of the below Symbols represent Catholic identity and they are part of the liturgical celebrations of the church and the private devotions:
   I. **Sacred vessels** such as Chalice, Ciborium, Cruets, Altar bells, Thurible, Monstrance, Host & Paten, are used during the Eucharistic celebration.
   II. **Lectionary** - Readings from Scripture are part of every Mass. At least two readings, one always from the Gospels, (3 on Sundays and solemnities) make up the Liturgy of the Word. In addition, a psalm or canticle is sung.
   III. **Crucifix, Holy water, Holy Bible, Candle, Rosary and Religious medals & Scapulars** are special symbols or Sacramental, used for liturgical celebrations and/or personal devotion
   IV. **Alpha and Omega**: are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In the book of Revelation 1.8, 21.6 and 22.13, Christ refers to himself as the alpha and the omega – the beginning and the end of all creation.
   V. **The Sacred Heart:** is usually shining with divine light, encircled by a crown of thorns, surmounted by a cross, and bleeding. Sometimes it is shown in the chest of Jesus Christ. The **wound, thorns, and blood** represent Jesus' **crucifixion**, and the Sacred Heart, pierced and wrapped in thorns, shows the depth of Jesus' love **and** that his love is eternal.
   VI. **IHS**: is an ancient and shortened form of the Greek word for **"Jesus Christ."** It often appears on liturgical items and gravestones. Just as a name gives identity to a person, the name of Jesus reminds the hearer of who He is and what He has done for us.
   VII. **The Dove**: is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. When Christ was baptised by John the Baptist, a dove descended on him.. The dove is sometimes depicted with an olive branch in its beak as a **symbol** of peace. In Noah's story, he sent out a dove to search for dry land. It returned carrying an olive branch only when the rain had stopped, and this was the **sign and symbol** of God's forgiveness and Grace.
   VIII. **The Lamb**: is the most important symbols of Christ. The whiteness of the Lamb symbolises innocence and purity. Christ, as the sacrificial lamb, who died for the sins of humanity was innocent and pure in his life and death. The lamb is, sometimes, portrayed with a flag. This is **symbolic** of Christ's victory over death in his resurrection.

8. **What does the different colors of Priest' vestments (Chasuble and Stole), used during Eucharistic Celebration, symbolizes?**
   Answer: The different vestments colors symbolizes:
   - **Green:** symbolizes Hope – It is used for Ordinary Time / all days that have no special color of their own.
   - **Red:** symbolizes the fire of charity and the blood of Christ - used for Pentecost, Feast of the Apostles and Martyrs who they shed their blood for Christ.
   - **Gold or White:** symbolizes Glory, innocence and purity - used for Feasts of Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary and non-martyred Saints and for Confessions.
   - **Purple:** is a sign of Humility and Penance - used for Advent and Lent.
   - **Pink:** symbolizes Joy and Love – used for Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) we are halfway through the season and drawing closer to the Christmas celebration. And, on Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) – is a day of Joy because we are so close to Easter and Jesus' Resurrection. The day of our resurrection, too!

EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

"Take; this is my body"

—Mark 14:22

The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is real, true, and substantial.

"Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love." (St. John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae*, no. 3)



"It is called: Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God." (CCC, no. 1328)

Eucharist "makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior." (CCC, no. 1330)