

“Two Minute Teaching” on the Mass

05-15-2016 – Eucharistic Prayer II

The Eucharistic Prayer is a memorial meal that celebrates Jesus’ Passover: the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, his death on Good Friday and his rising on Easter Sunday.

After the blessing of bread and wine, there are intercessory prayers for unity in the church, the Pope and bishops, our beloved dead and our destiny of eternal life with Mary and the saints. In the prayer for the dead, there is a phrase “and all who have died in your mercy,” which refers to all the “good” people of the earth, different faiths, no faith, unbaptized, etc... The next phrase, “welcome them to the light of your face,” reminds me of the people who had “near death experiences” and goes into the light.

The Eucharistic Prayer concludes with the doxology when the priest lifts up the bread and wine and says “through him, with him and in him (*“him” refers to Jesus*) O God almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours forever and ever.” Bishop Ken would say that this is like a wedding toast to God the Father, not champagne, but the Body and Blood of his Son. People respond with what we called the “Great Amen” (*I believe*) sung with great gusto!