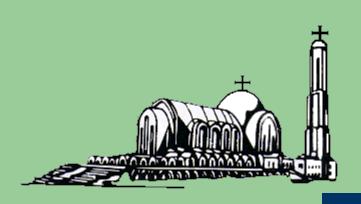
The Rites of the Coptic Church



St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church Pre-Service Training Seminars



Lecture 4:

THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace"

(1 Corinthians 14:33)



Overview of the Holy Sacraments



- 1. The Sacrament of Baptism
- 2. The Sacrament of Confirmation



- 3. The Sacrament of Eucharist
- 4. The Sacrament of Holy Orders (Priesthood)
- 5. The Sacrament of Repentance & Confession



- 6. The Sacrament of the Unction of the Sick
- 7. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



Agenda





- The Meaning of the Sacrament
- The Institution of the Sacrament



- The function of the Sacrament
- The Benefits of the Sacrament



- Physical Requirements for receiving the Sacrament
- Duties of the Priest towards the Sacrament





References to the Sacrament



Sacrament of the Eucharist
[Middle English eukarist, from Old French eucariste, from Late Latin eucharistia, from Greek eukharistia, from eukharistos, grateful, thankful: eu-, eu- + kharizesthai, to show favor (from kharis, grace).]

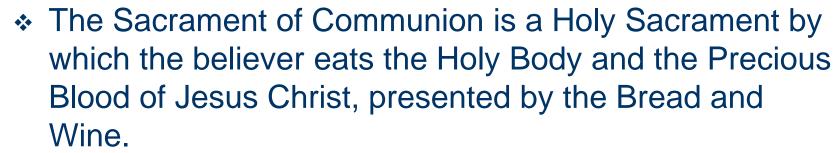


- Sacrament of Holy Communion
- Sacrament of Thanksgiving
- The Lord's Supper
- The Mysterious Supper
- Sacrament of Community
- The Mysteries



The Meaning of the Sacrament







This Sacrament has the greatest importance among the Seven Church Sacraments. It is sometimes called the 'Mystery of Mysteries' or the 'Crown of Sacraments'; for all the Sacraments are crowned by the Eucharist





The Institution of the Sacrament



The Lord Jesus instituted the holy Eucharist on Covenant Thursday, in the Upper Room.



He rose and washed the feet of His disciples (Why?), then sat down and instituted the Passover of the New Covenant, which is the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



"He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat, this is My Body', then He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28)



How do we view the Eucharist?



The Holy Eucharist is <u>truly</u> the body and blood of Christ. It is not a symbol.



As the celebrant says; "And He makes this bread into His Holy Body...and this cup also into the precious Blood of His New Covenant."

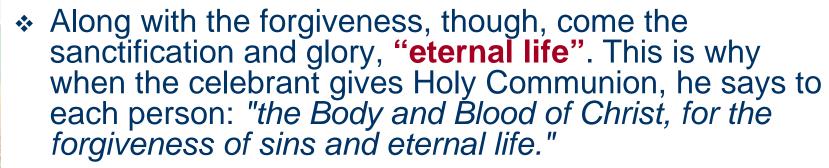


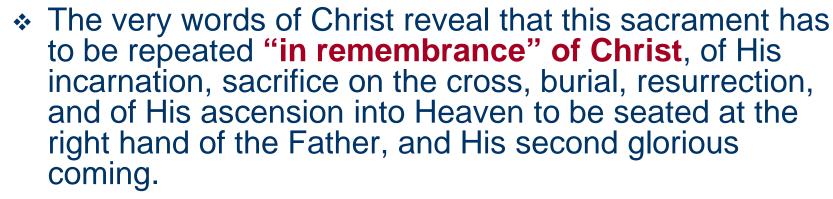
- The eleventh and twelfth centuries brought on the scholastic era leading the Catholic Church to come up with the term "transubstantiation"
- Rationalists <u>wrongfully</u> claim that the gifts are nothing but bread and wine, period. They only represent Christ's Body and Blood; they have no spiritual reality.



The function of the Sacrament







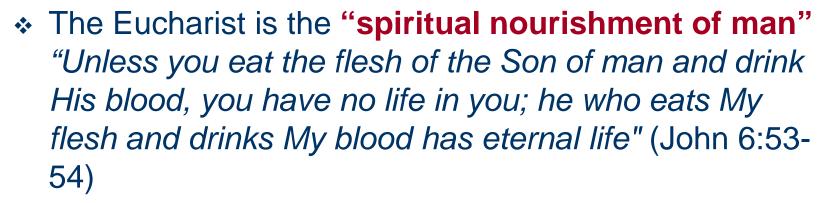






The function of the Sacrament (Cont.)







Partaking of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ "gives the spirit immunity and inaccessibility against the viruses of sins", Satanic warfare and bodily lusts, The Psalmist says: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" (Psalm 23:5).





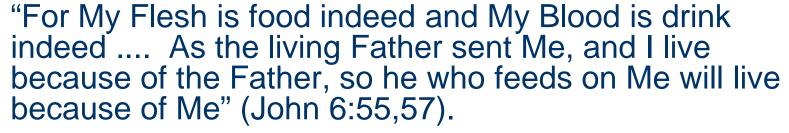
The Benefits of the Sacrament



* Abiding in Christ according to His precious promise: "He who eats My Flesh, and drinks My Blood abides in Me, and I in him" (John 6:56).



It gives us the promise of eternal life: "Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day. He who eats this Bread will live forever" (John 6:54,58).





Strengthens the Soul: Our holy church fathers called Communion 'the remedy for the death of sin'.



The Benefits of the Sacrament (Cont.)



It provides remedy to the soul, body and spirit, as we say in the Offertory Mystery: "That they (Holy Body and Precious Blood) may become to us all for participation and healing and salvation for our souls, bodies and our spirits".



It provides the unity of the body and spirit, as St. Paul our teacher says: "For we being many, are one bread and one body, for we all partake of that one body" (1 Corinthians 10:17).



It gives us an eternal inheritance with all the saints who have pleased the Lord by their good deeds



Spiritual Requirements for receiving the Sacrament



- * True Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Repentance



- Reconciliation with others
- He/She must not deal with Communion as if it is ordinary food



- Worthiness is feeling unworthy and sinful
- Physical Preparedness



Physical Requirements for receiving the Sacrament



- Control over all physical senses
- Cleanliness of body and clothing
- The faithful must be fasting for at least 9 hours
- Abstinence of marital sexual encounters
- Women should abstain during menopause
- 40/80 Days for mothers of new born babies
- Must attend the reading of the Bible
- Do not brush your teeth nor gargle with water
- Avoid bleeding after communion (cuts)
- Spend the rest of the day in a spiritual way





Duties of the Priest towards the Sacrament



The priest who serves the Mass and sanctifies the sacrifice is completely responsible and accountable for it before God.



- The priest has the authority to refuse giving Communion to the unprepared.
- The priest can forbid his son/daughter in confession from receiving Communion for a specific period of time.
- The Measuring Reed
- The Bank Teller

