

The Mass: The Time Machine

My maternal grandma is one of those history buffs. She seems to know the timeline of every national historical event. So I was not surprised, as a young girl, that vacations with her meant trips to different historical sites in the country and that car games involved matching a Capitol with the correct state. I really did enjoy all the trips we took, from Richmond to Charleston. One of the many reasons I loved visiting these sites and cities was because it was like going back in time. History went from the abstract, from being a lifeless paragraph in a textbook, to the here and now. As real as that time transformation felt, though, it was not real. We were in the present simply *reflecting* on the past. The past was not *present to us*. However, there *is* one event in history that can be literally present to us and it can only be made present by Christ's Church, the Catholic Church.

At His crucifixion, Christ offered Himself to the Father for our sins, and at that historical moment, he gained the graces necessary for our redemption. However, the graces earned at Calvary need to be *dispensed* in the here and now, to every generation. This is what the Mass is: the ultimate Channel of Grace. At Mass, Catholics are immersed in those graces gained at Calvary. Without the Mass, Christ's historical sacrifice, and thus the graces that sanctify us and help to ensure our salvation, would not be *present to us*. Christ's sacrifice would remain in the past as all other historical events do.

Praise be to God that, in the sacrifice of the Mass, we do in fact come face to face with the sacrifice and Victim of Calvary. At the words of consecration, Christ the Victim and the sacrifice of His body and blood are present on the altar under the appearances of bread and wine. Furthermore, we receive Christ's body and blood into our own body and blood! We are in the most intimate way connected with the sacrifice of Calvary. It is not only *present to us* but *in us*. Could there be a greater privilege?

Nothing can separate us from Christ and his redemptive work, not even time. Don't let the fidgety toddler seated next to you or the noisy air conditioning system fool you into thinking that you are not at the foot of the cross.

All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, All through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, All in Union with St. Joseph!