



Session Six

# The Eucharist and Mission

## THE EUCHARIST AND MISSION

### Opening Prayer

God of justice, God of salvation,  
from every land you call a people to yourself.  
Yours is the work we do,  
yours is the message we carry.  
Keep your Church single-minded and faithful to you.  
Let failure not discourage us  
nor success beguile our hearts,  
as you send us to proclaim the gospel.  
We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen**

### Scripture *Luke 4:16-21*

Jesus came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for he has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

## **Words of Pope John Paul II**

Eucharist and mission are two inseparable realities, as the Apostle Paul stresses: "Every time, then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes" (1 Cor 11: 26). The Eucharist, in fact, is the memorial of the redemptive offering of Jesus to the Father for the salvation of humankind. Through his sacrifice on the Cross, Jesus "makes" the Eucharist, that is, he gives thanks to the Father. This mystery asks each one of us to thank the Father with Christ, not so much with words as rather with our life itself, united to his. Consequently, there is no authentic celebration and adoration of the Eucharist that does not lead to mission.

*Address of Pope John Paul II to the participants in the Youth Mission in The Diocese of Rome, 9 October 2004*

## **Reflection**

*Mandy Baker*

The reflection from Mandy is available to download from [cliftondiocese.com](http://cliftondiocese.com).  
Play the video clip here.

## **Questions for conversation**

How can I/we grow in our understanding of the Eucharist that sends us out?

Do we feel we have a real sense of being fed in order to go out 'to love and serve the Lord'?

Are we a community that 'looks outward' in mission and outreach or are we growing stale from simply trying to maintain the status quo looking inward at ourselves?

How can I/we better understand the connection between what we celebrate and the way we live? Does the Eucharist nourish me so that I can bring to others what I have received? Am I a mission?

**Re-read** the Scripture passage for this session. You may like to follow the reading with a time of prayer and intercession after which you might pray the **OUR FATHER**.

### **Final Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
in this most wonderful sacrament  
you have left us the memorial of your passion;  
deepen our reverence for the mystery of your body and blood,  
that we may experience within us the fruit of your redemption.  
You live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. **Amen**