



*"Giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you."*

As an ordained priest I stand at the altar and speak these words to the eternal Father in a public way on behalf of the people. Sometimes I feel very aware that he is hearing me as I offer to him this Eucharistic meal, representing our desire to be at peace with him, our collective gift to him of our sacrifices, our sentiments of trust and fidelity, all united to our desire to thank him for the gift that he has given to us first of all, his Son Jesus. I ask the Father for what will please him most of all to give – that he bring his Church into the fullness of charity and unite us in the Spirit and in the Body of Blood of Christ.

As baptized Christians, our dynamic with the Father is just the same. For us and for the whole world, we offer him the body and blood, soul and divinity of his dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our relationship with the unseen God is forever changed and enriched because our hearts have encountered Jesus in the Gospel, in the sacraments, and in the Church.

As we celebrate the Epiphany and recall the Magi who came from afar to meet the new born King, we can well imagine that they too began to give thanks to God in a new way because of their encounter with Jesus. They represent a world still discovering the gift of Jesus Christ, and in Jesus, a new relationship with God the Father and a new hope for love in our world. By our love for one another, may the world come to believe in Jesus Christ.

*- Fr. Jim*