

2017-05-14, Series on the Mass, Part 72

First Apology Prayer Before Communion

The *Agnus Dei* having been said, the priest now prays three prayers before receiving communion. These prayers are sometimes referred to as apology prayers since the priest is acknowledging that we are dependent on God and that we are sinners in need of His mercy. The first of the prayers is the one where we ask for peace, and it is a sort of extension of the last invocation of the *Agnus Dei*, “grant us your peace”. This prayer is also the preparation for the kiss of peace that is used in the High Mass when there is a deacon and subdeacon assisting at the altar. Our Lord at the Last Supper pronounced the words “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...” just prior to the first communion of the Apostles and, therefore, it is appropriate that we pray for this peace at this time, just prior to our communion.

The peace of a heart united to God can exist despite the trials and difficulties that we are faced with, be it our daily crosses or even time of war and persecution. Peace is not only the absence of trouble, but it is primarily the tranquility of order. That is why if we are properly ordered to God with the state of grace interiorly, we can have this interior peace and order despite the lack of exterior peace because of the disorder in the world around us. Only we can lose that interior peace by sin. God alone knows the order of His creation: true peace can only come from Him. What we are praying essentially, is that despite our sins, we are asking God to grant peace to His Church.

*Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP
Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish*