

## Speaker Reflection Questions

### **Chris Carstens**

#### **"Mass of the Lord's Supper: Birth of the Eucharist and the Priesthood":**

1. The first reading at the Mass of the Lord's Supper recounts the first Passover meal in Egypt (Exodus 12): how is Christ and his Eucharist the fulfillment of that first Passover?
2. Why does the Eucharist need a priesthood--and the priesthood need the Eucharist?
3. What are some of the ways that the ministerial priesthood is highlighted on Holy Thursday and throughout the Triduum?

### **Dr. John Bergsma**

#### **"Holy Thursday Through Jewish Eyes"**

1. What do people actually think is going on when they take communion? In actual practice, do you think many Catholics imagine we are just having a "memorial meal" as Protestants do? Given this is so central to our faith, why is there such confusion in the pew about the meaning of what we do?
2. What is a covenant? What do people think a covenant is, if they think about it at all? What difference does it make if we think a covenant is a book vs. thinking that it is a sacrament?
3. What are some of the ways the Eucharist and Mass are not like the "oatmeal breakfast to remember John"? Are there other differences you can think of that Dr. Bergsma did not mention? Which one struck you the most?

### **Dr. Ralph Martin**

#### **"Lord I Am Not Worthy"**

1. How could the "Lord I am not worthy....." prayer of the Mass be one of Ralph's favorites?
2. Why are the penitential prayers of the Mass so important?

### **Dr. Mark Miravalle**

#### **"Mary and the Eucharist"**

1. Reflect upon the profound union between Jesus and Mary as it is seen in the relationship between Our Lady and the Eucharist.
2. Why did St. Pius X state that one of the greatest titles for Mary is, "Mother of the Eucharist"?

**Fr. Ignatius Schweitzer**

**“Hidden Abundance”**

1. Pray with some of the following passages about the abundance of God's blessing in material terms and let the Word of God affect your mind and heart. Then lean in more deeply to the Word and take in the abundant spiritual blessings we have in Jesus and the Eucharist (Eph 1:3-14). What struck you? Genesis chs 1-2; ch 47. Ex 29:37-46. Deut 28:1-12. 2 Sam 7. Isa 25:6-10; ch 35. Jn 15:1-17. Rev 7:15-17; 22:1-5.
2. The following passages are about a similar abundance with sacrifice and worship in the Temple or before the Lord (especially with the grain, wine, and oil). Let your mind, heart, and affectivity be shaped by these passages then, in this spirit, offer yourself to God in this spirit of worship and self-offering. Ex 40:34-38. Lev 26:3-13. Deut. 33:28-29; 11:8-24; ch 26. Ezek 47. Joel 2:22-32; 3:17-18, 21. 1 Chr 16; 29; 21:18-29. Jn 12:23-32. 2 Chr 5-7.
3. How does the setting of the church and the physical aspects of our worship similarly affect our spirit? How does a Scripture passage or the Eucharist help you focus your mind and heart on the Lord and then ascend to Him in His infinite mystery of Love?

**Fr. Boniface Hicks**

**“Praying with the Psalms”**

1. What is your experience of praying the psalms? Do you have a favorite psalm?
2. The psalms are a mirror for the heart and express the full range of human emotions. What is the hardest emotion for you to express? Can you find a psalm to help you with that?
3. Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Faith becoming music is a part of the process of the Word becoming flesh." The psalms are a part of the liturgy that is especially made to be sung. How does sung faith elevate your mind and heart?
4. What is one way that you will incorporate the psalms more into your spiritual life in the future?

**Msgr. Charles Pope**

**“The Mass; Perfect Worship, Perfect Thanksgiving”**

1. How is the Mass a perfect thanksgiving?
2. Do you and others whom you know see or understand that Mass is a participation in the worship of heaven? If not, why not?
3. Do you rarely or often remember that Jesus is the true Celebrant of every Sacrament?
4. What does it mean to say that the Mass makes present the once-for-all perfect sacrifice of Jesus and the Cross?

**Dr. Helene Paharik**

**“Feed My Sheep: The Last Supper, the Eucharist, and the Heart of the Shepherd”**

1. Where in your life right now do you most need to be “fed” by Christ the Shepherd?
2. How has your experience of the Eucharist shaped the way you care for others?
3. What does it mean, concretely, for you to “feed” or “tend” Christ’s sheep in your current vocation?