

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Institutional Narrative (Consecration) and Memorial Acclamation

During the consecration part of the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest, using the words and actions of Christ, carries out the Sacrifice that Christ, himself, instituted at the Last Supper, when he offered his body and blood under the species of bread and wine, gave them to his Apostles to eat and drink, and left them the command to perpetuate the same mystery.

All present Roman Eucharistic Prayers have the same words of institution (a uniformity requested by Pope Paul VI), although the narratives in which they are framed differ in each case. The elevation of the host dates from the early thirteenth century. The elevation of the chalice as well as a genuflection after the consecration of the wine appeared in the late fourteenth century and gained universal acceptance with the Missal of Pius V in 1570.

After the consecration, when the priest has said, "Let us proclaim the mystery of faith" the people say or sing the acclamation, "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again", one of four acclamations in the English language. The memorial acclamation is a manifestation of the congregation's active participation in the Eucharistic Prayer. The mystery of faith is the Paschal Mystery, the mystery of Christ dying, rising from the dead and subsequent presence among his people.