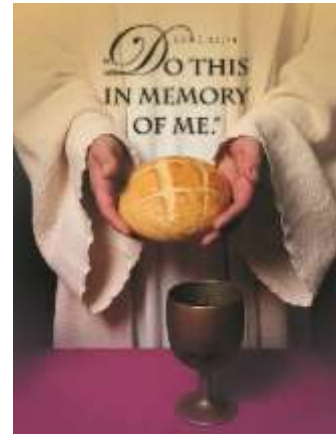




*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Mass—The Eucharistic Thanksgiving*

*The Eucharistic Prayer is thanksgiving for the heart of life as Christians understand it: for all God's creation, and especially for the saving works of Christ. It is proclaimed over the bread and wine, symbols of what is most basic, food and drink from the tables of ordinary people.*



*Let us look at the different aspects of the Eucharistic Prayer.*

*THANKSGIVING: In the name of the entire people of God, the priest praises the Father and gives Him thanks for all His blessings.*

*ACCLAMATION: United with the angels and saints, the people sing the "Holy, Holy, Holy." This acclamation forms part of the Eucharistic Prayer and together with other Eucharistic acclamations this proclamation helps everyone enter into and identify with the prayer. (Remember, this is not simply the priest's prayer. We involve ourselves fully when we join our hearts to the words sung or spoken by the priest, when we sing acclamations with full voice.) The acclamations engage the assent and enthusiasm of all the people. (So be sure to pray these with meaning and enthusiasm.)*

*EPICLESIS: During this time the priest holds his hands over the bread and wine. The priest calls on God's power through the Holy Spirit and asks God to send His Holy Spirit to make holy and transform the gifts of bread and wine, that they may become the body and blood of His Son Jesus.*

*NARRATIVE: In the words and actions of Christ, the sacrifice He*

*instituted at the Last Supper is celebrated, when under the appearance of bread and wine he offered His body and blood, gave them to His apostles to eat and drink and commanded them to carry on this mystery. This narrative (the story of what Jesus did at the Last Supper) is not an interruption of the prayer, rather the priest is “remembering” as Jesus commanded.*

*In the end, “Eucharist” is what our life as Christians is all about. Whenever we stand, in suffering, joy, confusion, or routine, our life is always to be thanksgiving, always to be sharing in God’s bounty with all in need.*



*Peace and love to all*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*