



Archdiocese of New York + 2011

Go Forth: The Mass closes with the dismissal by the deacon or the priest through which those who have participated in this celebration are not simply dismissed, but **sent forth**. Our presence at, and our participation in the Mass, while vitally important for the follower of Christ, are not enough. We are called, once we have left the Eucharistic Assembly, to be actively engaged in the Lord's work on earth. The Latin phrase which concludes the Mass is *Ite, missa est*, which is translated *Go forth, the Mass is ended*. When we leave the Eucharistic Celebration, we are not simply dismissed. We are told to *go forth* and we are given a mission.

put the Church's social teaching into practice by promoting justice, particularly for our neediest brothers and sisters. The poor, the sick, the elderly who have been neglected, prisoners, those with physical or psychological disabilities, those enslaved by drug addiction, those marginalized because of unemployment, the young without horizons of hope, are numerous forms of the challenging presence of Christ who we worship in the Eucharist. (Quoted in *The Mystery of Faith*. Lawrence J. Johnson. FDLC Publications 2004, 2005)

Pope Benedict XVI, in *The Sacrament of Charity*, wrote:

*The love that we celebrate in the sacrament [Eucharist] is not something we can keep to ourselves. What the world needs is God's love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him ... We cannot approach the Eucharistic table without being drawn into the mission which, beginning in the very heart of God, is meant to reach all people. Missionary outreach is thus an essential part of the Eucharistic form of Christian life. (*The Sacrament of Charity* n. 84)*

In 1994 Blessed Pope John Paul II dealt specifically with the mission to which the Eucharist calls us, challenging those gathered for the Eucharistic Congress in Seville, Spain with the following words:

Evangelization based on the Eucharist entails a commitment to

The blueprint for our mission, the way in which we put our Christian faith into action, is found first of all in the Word of God: the Gospel and the other readings through which God speaks to us in the *Liturgy of the Word*. It is the role of the homily to help us to apply God's Word to the circumstances of our daily lives and the world in which we live. Christian social teachings found in the exhortations of our popes and bishops and detailed in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offer applications beyond the narrow confines of our daily existence. Knowledge alone, however, is not sufficient. Attentive listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to the voice of conscience, fortified by the graces of the Eucharist and by personal prayer will help us to choose the right path. Above all, we need to have faith in the power of the Eucharist. In the celebration of the Eucharist, God challenges us; through the Eucharist he also gives us the light, courage and strength to carry on his work in the world.