**Liturgy Matters Lesson #32**

**The Doxology – Praising and Glorifying God**

**By Bishop Chad Zielinski**

I am Bishop Chad Zielinski, serving the Diocese of New Ulm. Thank you for joining me and asking the Holy Spirit to guide us as we continue our lessons on “What Happens at Mass.”

Communion with one another is an essential part of God's plan. And having designed salvation with this shape, God surely is teaching us and causing us to participate in the tremendous regard he has for us, his tremendous love toward us. We are made of double communion. Saint Augustine expresses it with utter precision when he says, "The true peace of rational creatures, which is the only peace of the heavenly city, consists in a perfectly ordered and harmonious enjoyment of God and one another in God." Enjoyment of God and of one another in God - this enjoyment is already tasted in the Eucharistic feast. Another name for this is praise. There is also a technical term based on Greek, which is doxology. A sense of doxology or praising and glorifying God has run through the Eucharistic prayer from the very start. In fact, in the preface and the angelic hymn, the notion of doxology was very much to the fore, even if the term was not used yet. But there is a specific part of the Eucharistic prayer that is called the doxology, and it is this that closes the whole prayer. Doxology is this prayer's final thrust, coming full circle from the doxology of the preface.

The bishop, or priest, lifts up the bread and wine - bread and wine which we have brought, bread and wine transformed into the body and blood of Christ in the form of his sacrifice which never passes away, bread and wine which we are shortly to consume - and lifting them up he presents them to God the Father as the "perfect offering made to the glory of His name." "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever." At that moment, the Church is doing what Christ did and forever does: she offers his one body, to which she has been joined, to the Father for the glory of His name and for the salvation of the world. This is our communion in the sacrifice of Christ. This is perfect praise.

Thank you for joining me today in this lesson on “The Doxology - praising and glorifying God." I look forward to sharing Lesson #33 with you next week as we continue our lessons on the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Let us keep one another in prayer. May God bless you and your families.