

Come to the Altar

Hollow Worship

The temptation to experience worship as hollow or empty is universal. God's solution for our hearts is the invitation to offer Him our first-fruits. Sacrifices that are intentional, consequential, and representational have the power to transform our hearts and fill up what might be hollow worship.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thoughtful gift you have received? Tell us the story.
 2. Have you ever experienced "empty" or "hollow" worship in the Mass? Share what that experience has been like? In the past, what might you have thought "caused" that? Discuss.
 3. Are there any areas in your life where you know God has been calling you to give first-fruits and you know you are not consistent in that? What is one area of your life you would like to begin being consistent in giving the Lord your first-fruits? Please share and discuss.
 4. In this area (where God is calling you to offer first-fruits), what is one way this sacrifice can be both a) intentional and b) consequential? Share and write down your answers.
 5. How is this offering connected to how you are called to live? Guarding against mere "substitutionary sacrifice" ("I offer this instead of my heart..."), how is the offering of first-fruits going to impact your life ("representative sacrifice" saying "I offer this on behalf of my heart...")?
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God in Real Life

This week, how can you bring your first-fruits, your heart, the people on your heart to God at the altar in the Mass?

To the Heart

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." Mark 12:43-44