

### **Accepting The Sacrifice: It Is A Two Way Street**

Just prior to the Eucharistic Prayer, at Mass, we enter into the *Orate Fratres* portion of the Mass. *Orate fratres* literally means, "Pray, brethren." It concludes the preparatory rites at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The following is proclaimed by the priest and then the congregation:

**Priest:** *Pray, brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.*

**Congregation:** *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

We proclaim this every Sunday but do we truly understand what it is that we are saying? It is our humble request and our express desire that God will accept our united offering. But not through our hands. The priest is clearly asking us that the bread and wine that he has prepared for himself and all of us, is an acceptable offering to God. Our response clearly indicates that we too are hopeful that this sacrifice is worthy not only for ourselves but for the entire Church. This "announcement" brings us into the sacrificial form of the Mass. Our response is our desire to be linked with the priest and a reminder that the sacrifice being offered is not the priest's alone but ours, too. ("my sacrifice and yours"). God provides us at Mass with the sacrifice: His own Son. If someone is bored at Mass, what is he or she offering to the Lord? If we were able to approach Jesus as He was giving to us His greatest sacrifice, would we say to Him, "I didn't get anything out of it"? Of course not! But maybe we need to ask ourselves: "What are we putting into it?" Is our sacrifice coming just from our lips or is it truly coming from our deepest desire to be one with God? Remember that we literally become one with God when we receive Him in Holy Communion. That cannot be undone. We are now His temple. Can others see Him living in you? **-Sherrle Clutts DRE**