

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

Chapter One

The Paschal Mystery in the Age of the Church

Article 1

THE LITURGY—WORK OF THE HOLY TRINITY

II. Christ's Work in the Liturgy

Christ glorified . . .

1086 “Accordingly, just as Christ was sent by the Father so also he sent the apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit. This he did so that they might preach the Gospel to every creature and proclaim that the Son of God by his death and resurrection had freed us from the power of Satan and from death and brought us into the Kingdom of his Father. But he also willed that the work of salvation which they preached should be set in train through the sacrifice and sacraments, around which the entire liturgical life revolves.”

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1087 Thus the risen Christ, by giving the Holy Spirit to the apostles, entrusted to them his power of sanctifying: they became sacramental signs of Christ. By the power of the same Holy Spirit they entrusted this power to their successors. This “apostolic succession” structures the whole liturgical life of the Church and is itself sacramental, handed on by the sacrament of Holy Orders.

... is present in the earthly liturgy . . .