

Devotional thoughts to be had while celebrating the Holy Qurbana

(Mathews Barnabas Metropolitan)

- 1) We have to remind ourselves the fact that the aim of Holy Qurbana is to offer ourselves for the glory of God. We have to pray “O Lord Jesus Christ, you offered yourself as a sacrifice. Help me to offer myself as a sacrifice bringing glory to you.”
- 2) At the beginning of the Holy Qurbana the chief celebrant says “Mary who brought Thee forth and John who baptized Thee, shall be supplicants on our behalf.” It is a time in which we celebrate the birth and baptism of our Lord. We then visualize the coming down of our Lord into our hearts.
- 3) When we pray, “Thou who wast crucified for us, have mercy upon us,” we remind ourselves of our sinfulness, unworthiness and helplessness.
- 4) When we pray “Merciful Lord, have mercy upon us,” we remind ourselves that we have only the Lord to depend on. Till we reach the perfection of the heavenly Father, we are still sinners.
- 5) When we pray “May we offer praise and thanks to you your Only begotten Son and Thy Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever” it is a dedication of the whole mankind for the glory of God. Our Lord has said “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (St. Matt. 5:16). This dedication is to be not only for the time of worship, but for all times and for ever.
When the congregation responds to this prayer saying “Amen” (let it be so), the prayer becomes that of the whole congregation.
- 6) When the bread and wine are blessed, it is Jesus Christ, the invisible chief celebrant, who blesses them. Along with the bread and wine, our Lord is blessing us also.
- 7) In the invocation of the Holy Spirit, we pray that the Holy Spirit may come upon the blessed bread and blessed wine and perfect them as the body and blood of our Lord.

The chief celebrant prays “Answer unto me O Lord” three times. The response of the congregation is “Kurielaison” which means “Lord have mercy.” It is good to say it in our mother tongue when the Holy Qurbana is said in our mother tongue.

This is also a time in which we call the Holy Spirit upon us.

8) When we sing “Hearken gracious Lord we pray,” the blessed body is broken and it is mixed with the blessed blood. At this time we are celebrating the death and resurrection of our Lord. It should be a time in which we crucify our old man and let our Lord get resurrected in us. The tune of the song at this time should be penitent in nature.

9) In the Lord’s Prayer, we say “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.” God’s name will be hallowed (glorified) when we, His children, become godly. Our Lord said “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (St. Matt. 5:16).

10) When we elevate the Holy Qurbana in glory, we commemorate the ascension of our Lord.

11) When we sing,

“The princess stood with praises
Haleluyyah ou Haleluyyah
And the queen on your right side.
Forget your home and people
Haleluyyah ou Haleluyyah
So the King may care for your beauty.”

We offer the whole church as the bride of Christ. We find how our Lord offered Himself as a sacrifice to present the church to Himself “in splendor without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27).

12) When we receive Holy Qurbana, our Lord and we, become one. “The two shall become one flesh. This mystery is a profound one and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church.” (Eph. 5:31,32).

When we receive Holy Qurbana, in a way, it can be considered as the second coming of our Lord which is yet to happen.