

When this prayer is terminated the Bishop receives the mitre and proceeds to the middle of the altar, where he imparts the solemn episcopal blessing to the congregation as is done at the end of mass.

V.—“ May the name of the Lord be praised ”

R.—“ From henceforth now and forever.”

V.—“ Our help is in the name of the Lord.”

(Here he makes the sign of the cross on himself.)

R.—“ Who has made the heavens and the earth.”

Then turning to the people he holds the crozier in the left hand and with the right he makes the sign of the cross three times over the people, saying at the same time :

“ May the Almighty God † Father and † Son and Holy † Ghost bless you.” Then having bowed to the crucifix on the altar he again assumes the mitre, which was taken off before the blessing, and goes to the episcopal throne, where he remains during the celebration of the mass.

“ The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass ”

Although the ceremonial of Bishops lays down no positive rules on the subject, yet the ceremony of the enthronement of a Bishop or the induction of an Archbishop into a vacant see usually takes place before the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This is the central act of worship in the Catholic Church, where, according to Scripture, the Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Christ through the wondrous power which Christ gave to His Apostles, and through them to the priests of His Church : “ Take ye and eat : This is my body ” ; “ Drink ye all of this : For this is my blood of the New Testament, which shall be shed for many for the remission of sins ” (Matt. xxvi. 26, 27, 28). “ Do this for a commemoration of me ” (Luke xxii. 19). This is the sacrifice foretold by Malachias the prophet (chap. i. 11), which is offered in every place to the Lord. This is the oblation which is offered on the altars of the New Testament to continue and represent the sacrifice of the Cross, to implore pardon and forgiveness for sin and for other graces and blessings. “ We have an altar, whereof they have no power to eat who serve the tabernacle ” (Paul to Hebrews xiii. 10).

We here subjoin the prayers of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in Latin and English for the convenience of those who cannot follow the Latin version of the Roman Missal.

The priest, standing at the foot of the altar and facing it, crosses himself and says :

P. **I**N nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

P. **I**N the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

(H. M. The choir here begins to sing the Kyrie Eleison.)