

The Mass Is Never Ended

Recovering Our Mission to Transform the World

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Basic premises

Our mission as Catholic Christians is to transform the world.

Our work...is the primary way we make the world a better place, thus it is important, meaningful, and holy (p. 10)

The Mass is the gathering at which we remind ourselves of our mission, reflect on how we are doing, and get strengthened and trained to go back out and give another try at transforming our world (p.11).

Elaboration on the Basic Premise

The dismissal from Mass is the sending forth to fulfill our mission as lay people, that is, to make the world more like God would have it (p. 20).

“The point of the Mass is not to hang around church afterwards, but to go back to our daily lives renewed and recommitted to our mission as followers of Jesus” (p. 37).

Pierce reviews the Mass from the perspective that it is a sending forth liturgy, one sending us forth to transform the world through the way we do our work.

“...every time you do a good job at something, every time you think about others as well as yourself, every time you make the world a little better place, you are practicing the spirituality of work” (p. 65).

“Work is good...it is clear that God works (and so work is good) and that our work is a participation in God’s work” (p. 92).

“...if we wish to find God in the midst of our daily work lives, then we can devise practices and disciplines to raise our awareness of the divine presence in the midst of the noise, crowds, and complexities of workplaces” (p. 103).

The spirituality of work “is about doing the best work of which we are capable in a way that ultimately gives glory to God” (p. 107).

Additional Resources

Pierce provides reflection questions at the end of each short chapters. Appendices hold two prayers reflective of his beliefs about the role of work in lay spirituality, and a selective list of books and movies he has found interesting and helpful.