

#1 – May 8th, 2011 – Entrance Procession and Veneration of the Altar

The Entrance procession and hymn to accompany the ritual action is an expression of the people becoming a liturgical community, of being together as a people, a people who have gathered in response to God's invitation. The community singing together fosters a unity of those who have gathered. This is the first communal action of the congregation with the priest as we enter into the ritual of the Mass.

When the priest and ministers reach the front of the altar they reverence it with a profound bow. As an expression of veneration, the priest and deacon then kiss the altar itself (and the priest incenses the altar if it befits the occasion). These signs of reverence acknowledge the significance of the altar on which we will celebrate the Eucharist and the table of the Lord to which the people of God are called together to participate in the Mass.