

## Number Ten: The Prefaces to the Eucharistic Prayer

The Prayer before the Eucharistic Prayer is called the “Preface”. There are many different ones that reflect the special feasts and celebrations during the liturgical year but the first part of all of the Prefaces is the same. It begins with “The Lord be with you” (and the people respond: “And with your spirit”) and it continues with “Lift up your hearts”. The people’s response is: “We lift them up to the Lord” which remains the same in the New Missal as it is now. The final part of the dialogue, however, changes slightly. The priest says: “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God” and the new response is: “It is right and just”. This new response is more formal and it reflects the fact that thanking God is not only the right thing for us to do, but considering everything that God has done for us, it is the just thing to do as well. We owe God our thanks for His goodness and blessings and this new response highlights that reality. We are not always accustomed to thinking that we owe God thanks but when we really think about it, it makes perfect sense. The rest of the Preface varies with each of the individual ones but we will notice that the language in general follows the more formal and dignified way of speaking to God that we are now accustomed to using in the New Missal.