



## Mass Parts 35/52: *Prayers for the Living: the Gathered Community, and the Dead*

We pray not only for the members of the hierarchy, but for each other as well. We recognize that we are united with all of those currently gathered around our altar as well as all those gathered around altars throughout the world. We see each other around our altar. We offer up all of our communal, as well as private, prayers, and continue to place them on the altar with the gifts as we did at the Offertory.

We can take as an example the prayers from the end of Eucharistic Prayer III:

*Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.*

We then offer up our prayers for the dead, for if in Heaven or in Purgatory, they too join in our celebration. There are different “drop in” prayers for special events at Mass. When Eucharistic Prayer III is used at funerals, which I often do, there is a beautiful prayer for the deceased that closes the whole prayer.

*Remember your servant (Name is said here)  
whom you have called  
from this world to yourself.  
Grant he (she) who was united with your Son in a death like his,  
may also be one with him in his Resurrection,  
when from the earth  
he will raise up in the flesh those who have died  
and transform our lowly body  
after the pattern of his own glorious body.  
To our departed brothers and sisters, too,  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.  
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory,  
when you will wipe away every tear from our eyes.  
For seeing you, our God, as you are,  
we shall be like you for all the ages  
and praise you without end,  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.*

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Doxology and Great Amen