

On the Revised Translation of the Mass  
Bulletin Insert 2  
“The Mass is Heaven on Earth”

In the Book of Revelation, Saint John has a vision of what he sees in heaven. He reports a Temple with a huge throne, in front of which stands a Lamb who seems to have been wounded. In front of this Lamb is an altar before which sits countless angels, saints, and martyrs worshiping God through the same Lamb. John says all of those worshiping sing, “holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty...”

Early Christians remembered that John the Baptist had called Jesus the “Lamb of God” and they thus reasoned that what Saint John saw as recorded in the Book of Revelation was nothing other than the fulfillment in heaven of what Jesus did on earth by giving His Body & Blood at the Last Supper, sacrificing Himself on the Cross on Good Friday and rising to new life on Easter Sunday. The first followers of Christ figured that what happens in heaven, as seen by Saint John, must be the model for our earthly worship of God.

Observe that when we come to Mass we approach an altar on which we make present Jesus’ Body & Blood in the bread and wine. We even sing “holy, holy, holy,” just like John sees the angels and saints doing in heaven. It follows, then, that the Mass is heaven on earth!