The Lamb’s Supper by Scott Hahn – Part 1 Discussion

Forward by Fr Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R

Summary of Key Points
- This book brings together several powerful spiritual realities
- The study of “last things”
- It is important that we conduct our study with the a proper sense of the sacraments

Discussion Questions
1. Before reading this book, had you ever connected the Mass with the end times and the Book of Revelation?
2. Is your own experience of the Mass closer to that of Fr. Benedict Groeschel or that of the author of this book? Or does your experience share elements of both? Explain you answer.
3. How do you feel about the possibility of the world ending? What hopes or fears does it arouse in you?

Introduction – Christ Stands at the Door  (The Mass Revealed)

Summary of Key Points
- The Mass is familiar, but it contains hidden mysteries
- The Book of Revelation (or Apocalypse) seems strange, but it contains familiar things
- The Mass is heaven on earth

Discussion Questions
1. Have the strange details of the Book of Revelation intrigued you or put you off until now? Explain
2. What parts of the Mass make you feel most “at home”?
3. What circumstances regularly distract your attention from Mass?

Chapter 1 - In Heaven Right Now – What I Found at My First Mass

Summary of Key Points
- A stranger at Mass will find many scriptural surprises
- The language of “end times”, the visions of Revelation, are often liturgical in context
- Parousia, term often applied to the Second Coming, has other meanings.

Discussion Questions
1. What impress Dr. Hahn most about the Mass he attended?
2. How was he persuaded, gradually that the Mass was true worship?
3. How do you imagine the “Second Coming” of Jesus? Does it change anything for you to think about it as his Real Presence in the Mass?

Chapter 2 – Given for You – The Story of Sacrifice

Summary of Key Points
- A lamb makes an unlikely hero, yet it was the centerpiece of Israel’s sacrificial worship
- Sacrifice has many meanings and accomplishes and expresses many things
- The New Testament presents our salvation in terms of sacrifice, Passover, and the Lamb

Discussion Questions
1. Some people say that all love requires sacrifice. What sacrifices do we make for earthly loves? What do these sacrifices teach us about sacrifice offered to God?
2. Why do the Gospels apply the language of the Passover to both the Last Super and the crucifixion?
3. Why does Jesus’ sacrifice put an end to the sacrifices of the Jerusalem Temple? Without an earthly Temple, how does Christ extend his sacrifice though time?

4. Why does the Lamb in Revelation appear to be slain, though he is alive?

Chapter 3 – From the Beginning- The Mass of the First Christians

Summary of Key Points
- Some elements of the Church’s rites have deep roots in the liturgy of Israel
- From the Church’s beginning, Mass was central to the practice of Christianity
- We can recognize our Mass in the Masses of our earliest spiritual ancestors.

Discussion Questions
1. What do you find most interesting about early accounts of the Mass?
2. The rituals of Israel, the Passover Seder and the “todah” sacrifice, prefigured our celebration of the Mass. Consider each of test and identify their implications and emphases. How might they influence our prayer and worship today?
3. The Mass has survived for two thousand years with its basic form intact. It is one of the very few institutions that have survived that long. What, do you think, has enabled it to endure while civilizations have risen and fallen?

Chapter 4 – Taste and See (and Hear and Touch) the Gospel – Understanding the Parts of the Mass

Summary of Key Points
- Ritual is an important part of human life
- The parts of the Mass are rich in symbolic meaning and historical significance
- The Mass is a profoundly biblical way to worship

Discussion Questions
1. Do you sense a dramatic “flow” or development in the way the Mass proceeds? If you had to outline your experience of the Mass, what parts would you highlight? Why?
2. From the New Testament onward, the Church has always observed the Mass in two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Why do you think Jesus established it this way?
3. In what ways does the Mass engage your body and senses? What does this do for your spirit?
4. As you read this chapter, did you learn anything new about old familiar parts the Mass? If so, which parts?