

To my readers.

I realized this morning that I forgot to send out a musing yesterday. Please forgive me.

AND I will be in Saskatoon all week at the annual priest retreat.

I will be back late Thursday night.

Until Friday morning ... enjoy.

### **Day 163 – Sunday, August 30**

I came across this six part series on the history of the Eucharistic Liturgy. And I thought you might be interested

By Alfred McBride, O.Praem.; St. Anthony Messenger Press

### **2--FROM MEAL TO WORSHIP**

Gradually the apostles and their successors developed the Eucharistic celebration into the structure that endures to this day. They first named it the "Breaking of the Bread" but soon they saw the need to separate the rite from a meal, both because of abuses at meals (1 Cor 11:17-22) and because they wanted a more prayerful setting for this act of worship. This development was reported by a late first-century document, the Didache or "Teaching of the Apostles." Eucharist was moved to Sunday in memory of Christ's resurrection. In place of the meal the early Christians created a Liturgy of the Word somewhat modeled after synagogue prayer that included readings from Scripture, singing of psalms and an instruction. Around the words of institution they added prayers of thanksgiving, praise and intercession. By the year 150, St. Justin Martyr tells us that the basic structure of the Mass was already in place. These Eucharist's were held in people's homes up until the year 313. On Sunday there were two readings by a lector, a homily by the priest, then the Eucharistic Prayer and the distribution of Communion. And yes, there was a collection for widows, orphans and others in need! The threefold role of bishop, priest and deacon were already in place in the first century. Our Second Eucharistic Prayer [today](#) is brief and simple, and owes its inspiration to a similar one composed by Hippolytus of Rome in 215. It is clear that the basic form of the Eucharist occurred very early and has remained remarkably durable for 2,000 years.

*In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein