The Dismissal

Communion has concluded but Mass is not over.

We have received the Body and Blood of Christ and should have taken time, in the period of silence that follows, to reflect on this… the *extraordinary gift* that we have received in the Blessed Sacrament, the nature of *communion with God himself*, and also what all of this *means for us in our daily lives*. This last point is just as important as the rest because if we participate and take nothing away from the Liturgy that would nourish our faith and the way we live our lives, then we have missed an essential part of this mystery, the Mass… and thus the importance of the dismissal.



After the celebrant offers the blessing, the deacon (if assisting) dismisses the people. This is very relevant. *So much so that it gives the liturgy its name*: the word *Mass* comes from the Latin word *Missa*. The word *Missa* is related to the word *missio*, the root of the English word *mission*. ***Importantly, the liturgy does not simply come to an end: those assembled are sent forth to bring the fruits of the Word of God and the Eucharist to the world.***

The Mass, by its nature, enlightens our Christian vocation to share in the mission of Christ by bringing forth his message to the world. ***The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains that "the liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (mission) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives"*** (CCC 1332).

Traditionally, the people were dismissed with "*Ite, missa est*," the Latin phrase now translated as "*The Mass is ended, go in peace*." In 2008, three additional options were promulgated:

- *Ite ad Evangelium Domini annuntiandum –*
  Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord
- *Ite in pace, glorificando vita vestra Dominum –*
  Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life
- *Ite in pace –*
  Go in peace

Announcing and sharing the Gospel — glorifying God by our lives — does not need to be in extraordinary ways. Rather, it is centered on an authentic life lived in accord with the Gospel, striving for holiness and spiritual growth in prayer. This, in turn, allows us to carry the Gospel message to our families, neighbors and world so that we, too, have a key role in the task of evangelization by the faithful witness of our lives.

Sources: https://www.ncronline.org/news/vatican-prepares-three-alternative-endings-dismissal-mass ; https://clarionherald.org/news/the-mass-explained-final-blessing-and-dismissal; https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/concluding-rites