

# Dear Padre,

## Recently a visiting priest went completely off script during the eucharistic prayer at Mass. Is this allowed?

The eucharistic prayer is the summit of the entire Mass, culminating in what it means for the Church to celebrate the Eucharist. *The Roman Missal* offers ten options in English: Eucharistic Prayers 1, 2, 3, and 4; two for reconciliation; and four for various needs. Also, an additional three are available for Masses with children.

Not all of these options appear regularly in missalettes.

In exercising his office of celebrant, the priest is allowed to offer brief explanations, such as before the preface to the eucharistic prayer, but never during the prayer itself (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 31).

In general, “the Priest will remember that he is the servant of the Sacred Liturgy and that he himself is not permitted, on his own initiative, to add, to remove, or to change anything in the celebration of Mass” (*GIRM* 24). The mystery of the Mass “is too great for anyone to permit himself to treat it according to his own whim, so that its sacredness and its universal ordering would be obscured” (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 11).

Overall, presiders desire a meaningful ritual experience for those hungering and thirsting for holiness to encounter the living presence of Christ. If some actions and proclamations by presiders appear misguided, they’re seldom due to a lack of genuine pastoral care.



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/GREGORY A. SHEWITZ

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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Obedient to Jesus' commands, the Church organized the eucharistic liturgy into moments which correspond to the words and the actions performed by him on the eve of his passion....In the eucharistic prayer, we give thanks to God for the whole work of redemption, and the offerings become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.*

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

AUGUST 3  
Weekday  
Jer 28:1–17  
Mt 14:22–36

### Tuesday

AUGUST 4  
St. John Vianney,  
Priest  
Jer 30:1–2, 12–15,  
18–22  
Mt 14:22–36 or  
Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

### Wednesday

AUGUST 5  
Weekday  
Jer 31:1–7  
Mt 15:21–28

### Thursday

AUGUST 6  
Transfiguration  
of the Lord  
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14  
2 Pt 1:16–19  
Mt 17:1–9

### Friday

AUGUST 7  
Weekday  
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7  
Mt 16:24–28

### Saturday

AUGUST 8  
St. Dominic,  
Priest  
Hb 1:12–2:4  
Mt 17:14–20

### Sunday

AUGUST 9  
Nineteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–13a  
Rom 9:1–5  
Mt 14:22–33