

## *Ancestor Veneration Rite in Taiwan*

In recent years the church in Taiwan has developed a special rite incorporating major elements of the ancient ceremony into Masses celebrated on some major feasts.

The following, is the order of the Eucharist for the Lunar New Year.

The Eucharistic liturgy is characterized by three offerings at three different times.

1. A square table is placed in front of the main altar to act as a temporary altar. On this table are a chalice, water, wine and bread.
2. At the beginning of the mass, the main celebrant, concelebrants and servers do not ascend to the main altar.
3. Ceremonies from the beginning of the Mass until the prayers of the faithful remain as usual. The prayers of the faithful contain a memento for the ancestors.
4. After the prayers of the faithful the main celebrant, remaining at the temporary altar, prepares the wine and water, and washes his hands. The celebrants place the bread and the chalice with the wine on the main altar.
5. After the master of ceremonies announces the *First offering* the main celebrant ascends to the main altar. The master of ceremonies announces, "Offer the bread" and "Offer the wine"; the main celebrant offers the bread and the wine. Then he returns to the temporary altar and recites the offertory prayers and the preface.
6. After the master of ceremonies announces the *Second Offering*, the main celebrant ascends to the main altar. After the master of ceremonies announces, "Offer the Body of Christ" and "Offer the Blood of Christ", the main celebrant recites the prayers of consecration. This is followed by the memorial acclamation. Then the main celebrant returns to the temporary altar and continues the Mass up to the prayer of praise to the Holy Trinity.
7. When the master of ceremonies announces the *Third Offering*, the main celebrant ascends to the main altar and offers the Body

and Blood while chanting, “Through Him, With Him, and In Him,” etc., Then he returns to the temporary altar and sings the “Our Father”.

8. The master of ceremonies then announces, “Distribute Communion”, then the main celebrant distributes communion. The chalice is then brought to the temporary altar.
9. After communion the Mass continues as usual.



**A Catholic ancestor veneration ceremony**