

EVERY PRAYER HAS TWO PARTS:

WE GIVE TO GOD

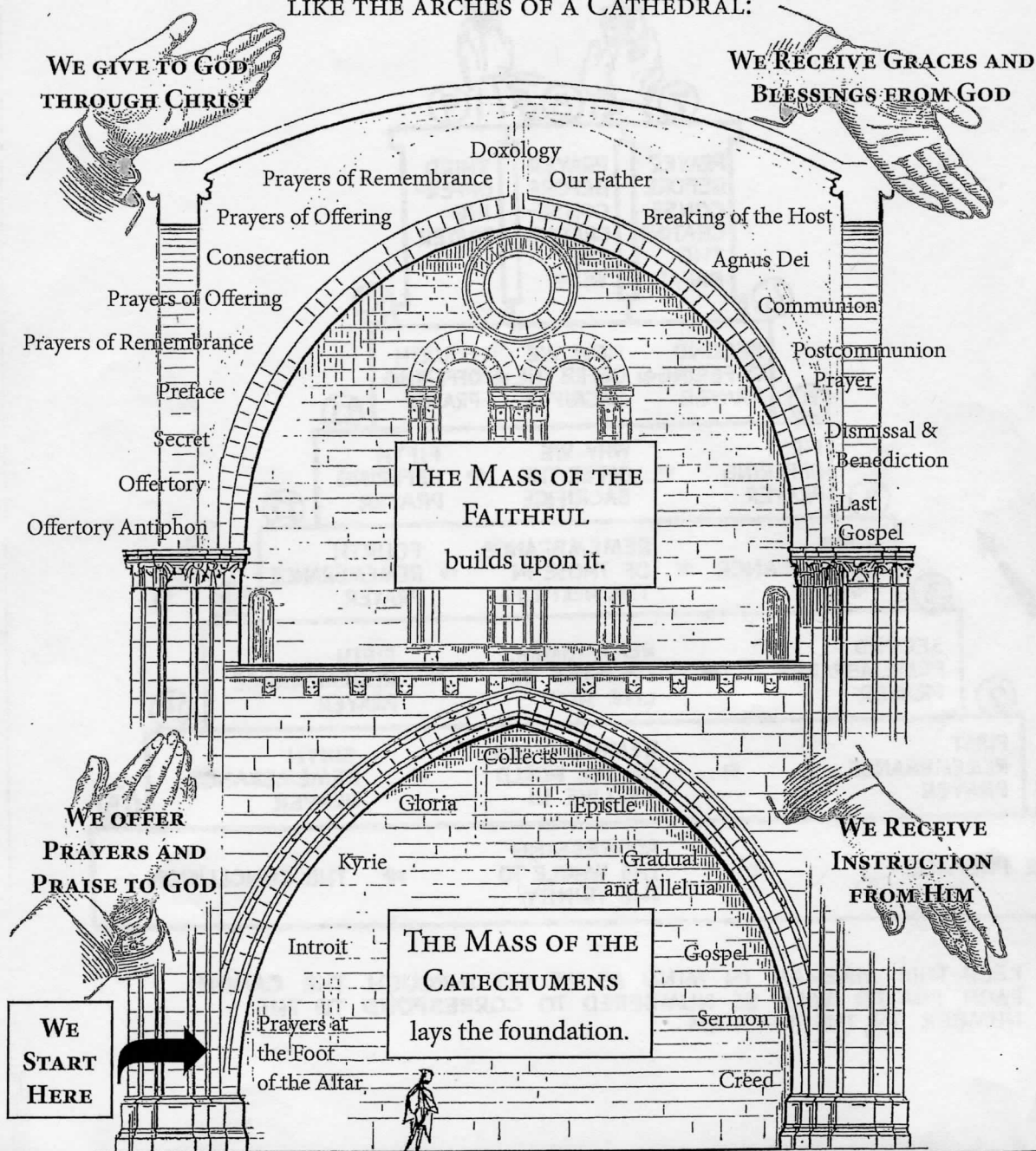
Prayer is the means by which we communicate with God; thus, like any conversation, it must go back and forth between us and Him. God created us to know Him, love Him and serve Him, and we do this best by offering him the glory that is His due.



GOD GIVES TO US

Once we have fulfilled this duty, we humbly ask God for the things we need. Our Lord gave us the ideal model for this conversation in the *Our Father*. In each of the prayers of the Mass, you will find this up-and-down motion.

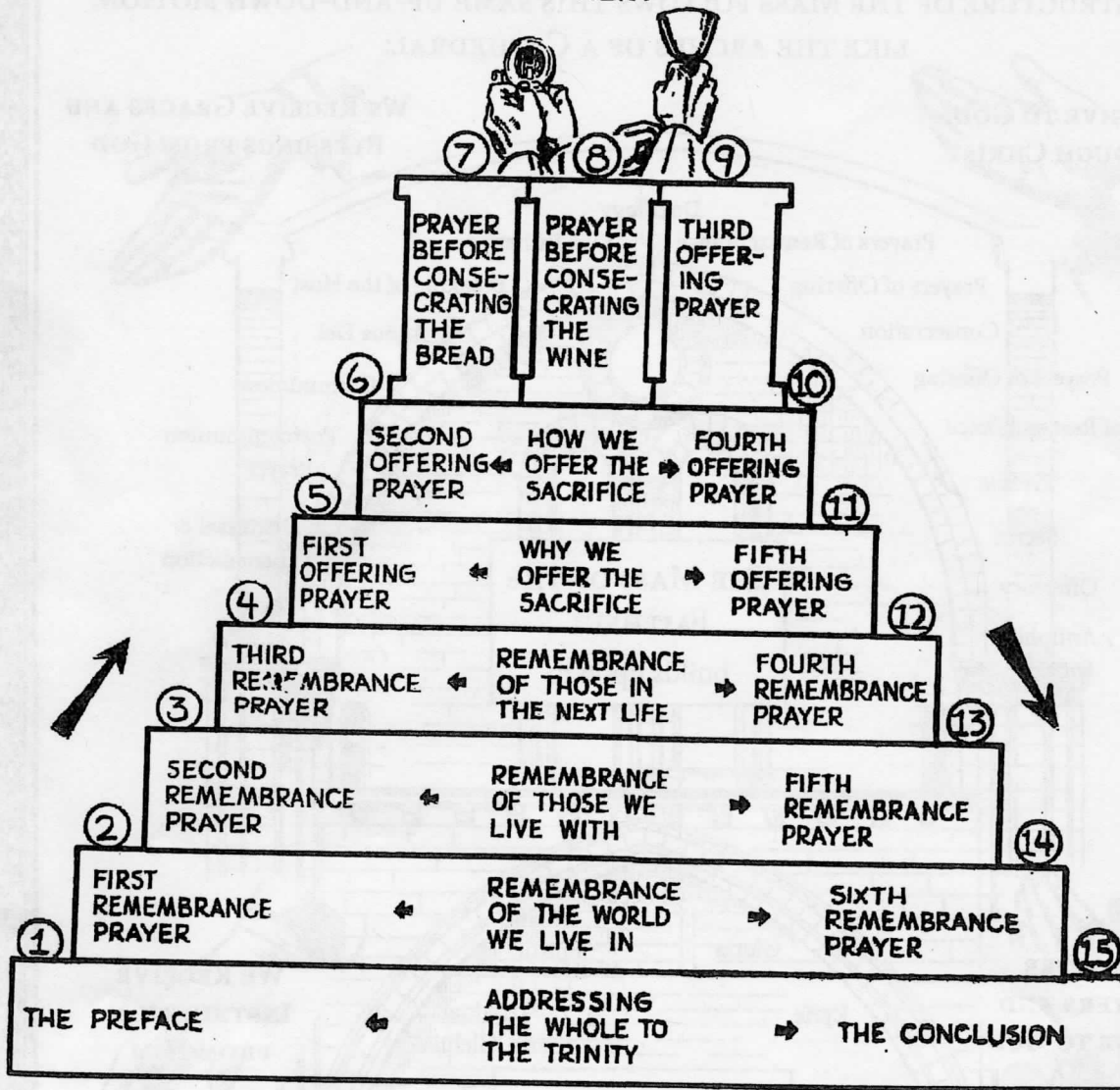
THE STRUCTURE OF THE MASS FOLLOWS THIS SAME UP-AND-DOWN MOTION, LIKE THE ARCHES OF A CATHEDRAL:



KNOW YOUR MASS CHAPTER EIGHT: THE HOLY OF HOLIES

NOW WE COME TO THE CENTER OF THE MASS, THE CANON (CALLED CANON, WHICH MEANS LAW, BECAUSE LIKE A LAW IT REMAINS UNCHANGEABLE).

WE CAN THINK OF THE PRAYERS OF THE CANON AS AN ALTAR FOR THE CONSECRATION, CONSISTING OF THREE PILLARS RESTING ON SIX STEPS. WE GO UP TO THE ALTAR ON ONE SIDE AND COME DOWN ON THE OTHER.



KEEP THIS DIAGRAM IN MIND AS WE GO THROUGH THE CANON. EACH PRAYER WILL BE NUMBERED TO CORRESPOND TO THE NUMBER IN THE DIAGRAM.