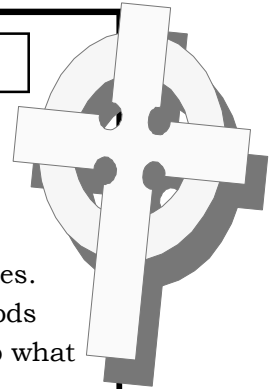


**OPENING PRAYER***Acts 2:42-47***The early Christian community**

They remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

And everyone was filled with awe; the apostles worked many signs and miracles. And all who shared the faith owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and distributed the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

Each day, with one heart, they regularly went to the Temple but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

**REFLECT****From  
THE CATECHISM OF  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The word 'Church' (Latin *ecclesia*, from the Greek *ek-kalein*, 'to call out') means a convocation of an assembly. It designates the assemblies of the people, usually for religious purposes.

In Christian usage the word 'Church' designates the liturgical assembly, but also the local community or the whole universal community of believers. These three meanings are inseparable. She exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical, above all a Eucharistic, assembly. She draws her life from the word and Body of Christ and so herself becomes Christ's Body.

*paragraphs 751-752***CONCLUDING PRAYER****Me in the Church  
What can I do?  
How should I behave within  
my community?**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*St Francis of Assisi*