Let it be the center of our praise and thanksgiving until we come jubilant to the eternal dwellings where we are to offer you the sacrifice of unending praise with Christ, the High Priest and living Altar.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All:
Amen.

The Anointing of the Altar

49. When these things have been completed, the Bishop, removing the chasuble if necessary and putting on a linen gremial, goes to the altar with the Deacon or another minister, who carries the vessel of sacred Chrism. The Bishop, with the miter and standing before the altar, says aloud:

May the Lord by his power sanctify this altar, which by our ministry we anoint, so that, as a visible sign, it may express the mystery of Christ, who offered himself to the Father for the life of the world.

Then he pours the sacred Chrism on the middle of the altar and on each of its four corners, and it is praiseworthy for him to anoint the entire table with it.

50. During the anointing, outside Easter Time (cf. below, no. 51), the following antiphon is sung with Psalm 45 (44):

My heart overflows with noble words. To the king I address the song I have made, my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe. R.

You are the most handsome of the sons of men, and graciousness is poured out upon your lips, for God has blessed you forevermore. R.

Gird your sword upon your thigh, O mighty one, with your splendor and your majesty.

In your majesty ride on triumphant in the cause of truth, meekness, and right. May your right hand show your wondrous deeds. R.

Your arrows are sharp—peoples fall beneath you—in the heart of the foes of the king. R.

Your throne, O God, shall endure forever. A scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom. R.

Your love is for uprightmess; your hatred for evil. R.