

Pope Paul II

Plenaria

Congregation for Divine Worship

May 22, 1987

The faithful who, due to the lack of a priest, cannot participate in a parish Mass must nevertheless be able to gather together in prayer of praise and petition, in listening to the Word of God and, if possible, in the communion of the Eucharistic bread consecrated during an earlier Mass, but must cause one to desire it all the more. It is for a small community of the faithful, a means -- although imperfect -- of preserving in a concrete manner its cohesion and vitality; it maintains from Sunday to Sunday its bonds with the whole Church which God does not cease to gather and which offers to God from east to west, everywhere in the world a perfect offering.

ORIGINS - Volume 17 pp. 127f