

Meaning Of Suscipe Fiat

“*Suscipe*” is a Latin word for receive. “*Fiat*” is a Latin word for “Thy Will be done.” “*Suscipe*” is the first word of a Eucharistic prayer from the Latin Rite Mass, in which the priest asks the Holy Trinity to receive and take up our offering of bread and wine which we offer in memory of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ so that it may ascend as a pleasing sacrifice “in Your sight and effect my eternal salvation and that of all”. The priest prays this in the singular but it is applied to all of us in the plural.

God the Father Takes Up Our Offering United With Jesus' Offering



This Latin word ‘suscipio’ is used instead of the word ‘accipio’ or ‘recipio,’ which in English means ‘receive’. *Suscipe* includes the idea of both receiving and taking up. Christ offered Himself to the Father on the cross and His offering was not only received by the Father but was ‘taken up’ by the Father, raised to a higher level, as indicated by Christ’s resurrection and ascension.

By praying the *Suscipe* prayer we are joining ourselves to the sacramental renewal of the sacrifice of Jesus on the altar. As the Holy Trinity takes up the sacrifice of the Mass into the ongoing gift of Himself that Jesus makes to the Father, so we also desire to be taken up in a deeper union of faith, hope and love with the living offering that Jesus makes of Himself to the Father. We offer ourselves, especially our wills, in Jesus’ and Mary’s fiat, as living offerings one with Christ upon the Cross and in the Eucharist. (adapted from Fr. Austin Green)

Suscipe Fiat became Fr. Hinnebusch’s habitual prayer, his living motto. “*Fiat*” is a Latin word taken from Mary’s act of agreement with God’s Will at the Annunciation when she said “*Fiat mihi*” – meaning, “Let Thy Will be done unto me.”

For many years Fr Hinnebusch practiced living the fiats of Jesus and Mary in the small events of daily life. This habitual abandonment and dying to one’s own will in loving agreement with God’s Divine Will developed into a complete sacrificial offering of Fr. Paul’s life and being, to a very high degree of virtue, especially in his later suffering and infirmity.

To explain his *SUSCIPE*, Fr. Paul wrote:

“When we offer the Eucharistic sacrifice, the Mass, with Jesus we say to the Holy Trinity, ‘Suscipe...Receive O Holy Trinity this oblation.’ ...My *FIAT* has to be *SUSCIPE* because my fiat is offered in the context of the Eucharistic sacrifice. ... All my living has to be the offering of sacrifice. ...***SUSCIPE* IS THE KEY WORD TO MY DAILY LIVING!**

~ Fr. Paul Hinnebusch, O.P.