

Incense (Livani) and Censer (Thymiaterion)

During our Church Services the Priest censes the Holy Objects and the people with incense (*in Greek, "Livani".*) Why is this?

We are reminded of the incense (frankincense) which the three Wise Men brought as gifts to the Christ Child.

We are reminded of the sweet-smelling Myrrh which was prepared to anoint Jesus Christ at His burial.

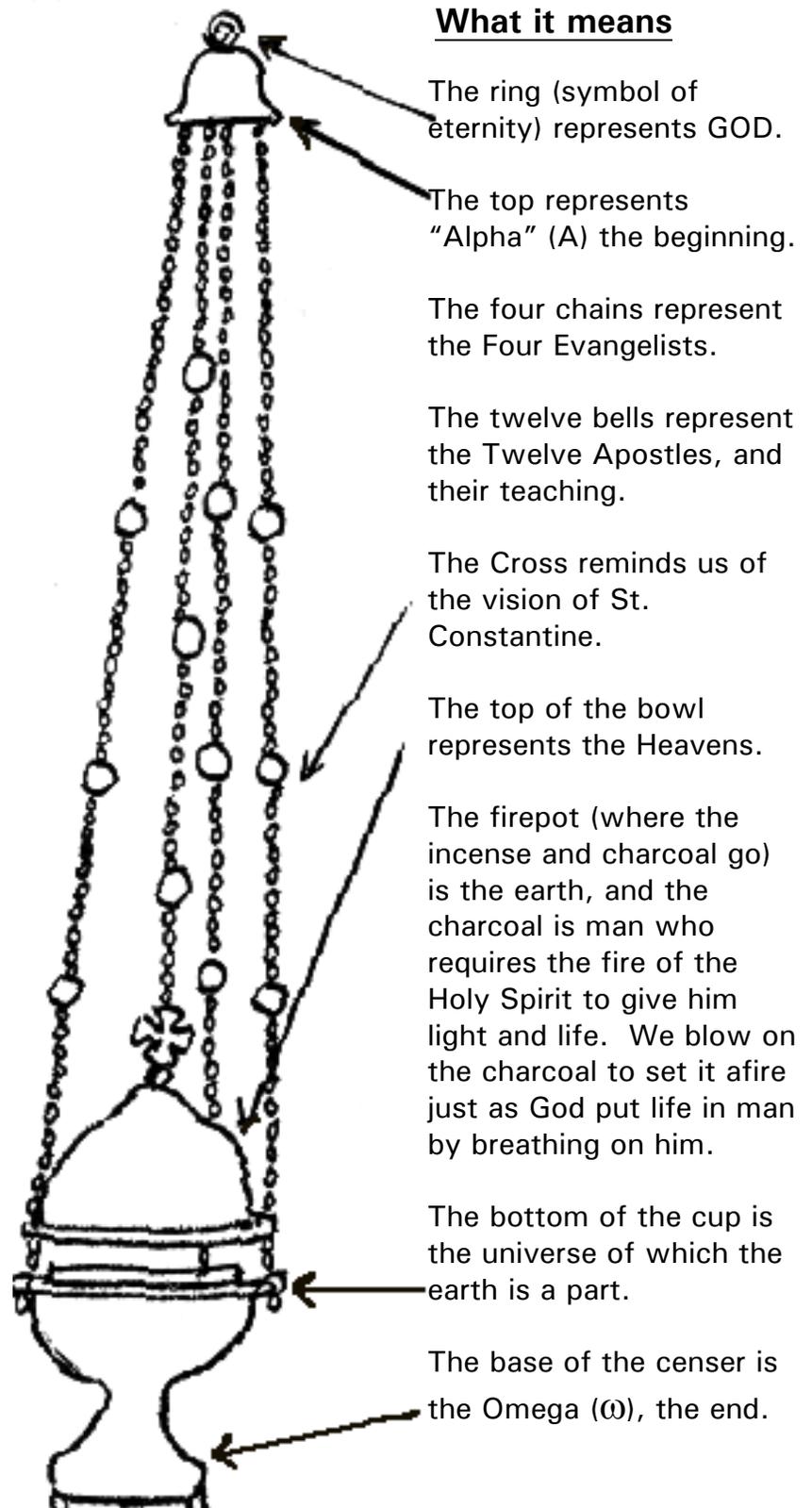
The smoke of the incense reminds us that our prayers rise toward God like that sweet fragrance of the incense.

What is incense?

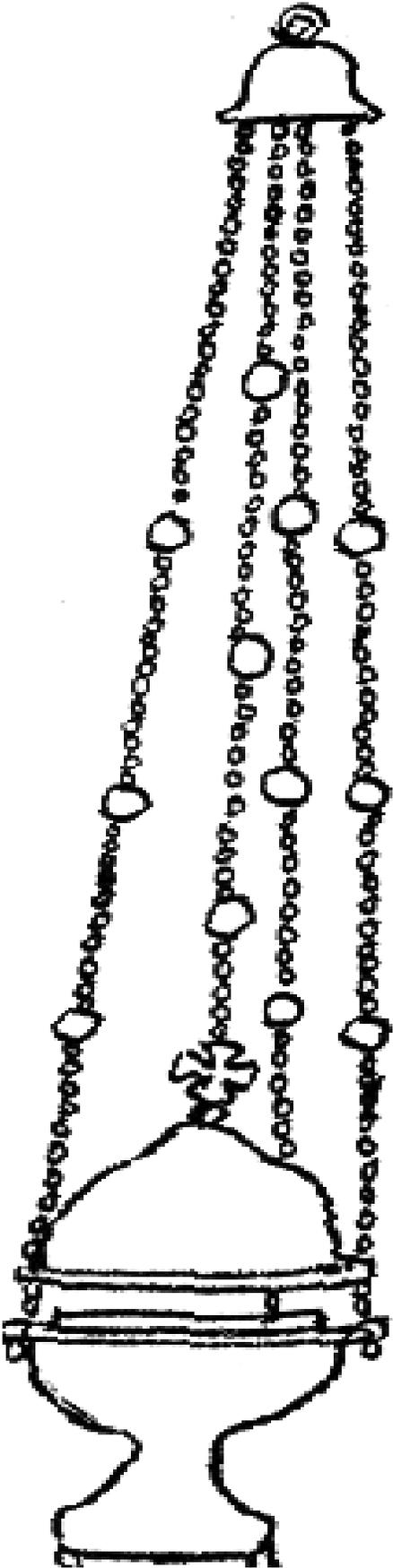
Incense is the hardened sap of certain trees. In order to make it burn, it must be placed in a vessel with burning charcoal. The vessel we use is called a censer (*in Greek, "Thymiaterion"*)

What is the censer?

The censer is a covered dish suspended on four chains. It is used to convey the fragrant smoke of the incense to holy objects. Its parts represent all of God's creation.



The Censer, The Incense



Censer

This is a picture of a censer. In our Church services, our Priest blesses us and other holy objects with the censer. It has burning incense in it.

Incense

The incense comes from the sap of some trees. The incense smells very good when it burns. The incense reminds us that the Wise Men brought frankincense to the Baby Jesus.

The smoke of the incense helps us to remember that our prayers go up to God just like the sweet smelling incense.