



LATIN LITURGY ASSOCIATION

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Chairman's Letter

A preliminary survey by the United States Bishops' Committee on Evangelization has discovered some interesting explanations for why so many people have left the Church in the past fifteen years.

Not surprisingly, most of those surveyed expressed disagreement with one or another Church teaching, especially contraception or divorce. Many said the Church was "too rigid" or had had bad experiences with a priest.

However, most of those surveyed also expressed strong misgivings about the movement from Latin to an English liturgy. "Repeatedly," according to one surveyor, "we heard feelings that the mystery or grandeur of the liturgy had been lost, and that the guitars and modern music in the Church are no substitute."

Given the penchant of so many ecclesiastical bureaucrats for hearing only what they want to hear, we can anticipate that they will note the first part of the findings -- those covering "rigidity" -- and overlook the opinions about liturgy.

There is also, it must be admitted, something odd about people's rejecting certain firm Catholic doctrines while remaining deeply attached to the old liturgy. (In fact, the lapsed Catholics surveyed generally expressed approval of the "new Church", except for liturgy.) There is a danger lurking here of mere estheticism - a liking for the "old Mass" because it is beautiful, without any acceptance of its meaning.

I wonder, however, if many of these former Catholics are not sending us a message, perhaps only half-consciously. The loss of "mystery or grandeur" in the Mass made it impossible for them to regard the Church's teaching authority with the same respect they formerly had. If the Mass was going to be in a style not much different from a television variety show, why should the "opinion" of popes and bishops be accorded any more weight than that of a television newscaster?

Wide adoption of the Latin Mass, new ordo, and a general restoration of a dignified, sacred liturgy would hardly have the effect of ending theological dissent in the Church. Such a liturgy would, however, at least serve, for many people, to manifest the Church as a truly supernatural institution, the creation of God, not of man.

James Hitchcock

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Local News

Alexandria, Louisiana-

An excellent Latin-English text in facing columns of the Ordinary of the Mass has been published by the Commission on Liturgy of the Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport (2315 Texas Avenue, P.O. Box 5665, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301). The booklet costs \$1.00 per copy for the first hundred copies, 90¢ per copy for 100 or more, 80¢ per copy for 200 or more and 70¢ per copy for 300 or more. The official ICEL English text for the United States is set forth opposite the Latin. The English text is set forth exactly as it would be used at a Mass in English even where the translators have reversed the sequence of phrases. The rubrics are in English only but are set forth in full as they appear in the American Sacramentary. The music for the parts of Iubilate Deo pertaining to the Mass are set forth in modern notation at their proper places. The only prefaces included are those for the Second and Fourth Eucharistic Prayers. This book is the best that I have seen for congregational use at a Latin Mass and is fully adequate for use at English Masses.

Corning, New York-

There is a weekly Latin Mass sung with a choir at St. Vincent de Paul Church. The celebrant, Father John W. Brill, recently celebrated the forty-seventh anniversary of his ordination with a Latin Mass sung with a choir of forty voices.

Springfield, New Jersey-

A schola cantorum is being formed at St. Teresa's Parish. After several months training the schola will lead the congregation in Gregorian chant at Mass. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Francis J. Manion, 137 Tooker Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081.

Washington, D.C.-

An important national conference on moral theology was held recently in Washington. It closed with a Mass concelebrated by Cardinal Baum in which the Ordinary was sung in Latin using the music from Iubilate Deo.

A schola meets regularly at Holy Redeemer College on Mondays at 8:15 PM September through July. They sing Mass and Compline on certain Sunday nights. For information contact Father F. X. Murphy, C.S.S.R. at 832-6934.

Last Easter your editor had the privilege of assisting at Father Murphy's Easter Vigil Mass and Cardinal Baum's Easter morning Mass, both in Latin. Each in its own way was an example of the beauty in the Liturgy which can be brought out by careful preparation, proper use of the musical heritage of the Church and reverent celebration.

More Latin Prayers

Angelus Domini

(Outside the Easter Season)

V. Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae.

R. Et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.

Ave, Maria.

V. Ecce ancilla Domini,

R. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.

Ave, Maria

V. Et Verbum caro factum est,

R. Et habitavit in nobis.

Ave, Maria.

V. Ora pro nobis, sancta Dei Genitrix,

R. Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.

Oremus. - Gratiam tuam, quaesumus Domine, mentibus nostris infunde: ut qui, Angelo nuntiante, Christi Filii tui incarnationem cognovimus, per passionem eius et crucem ad resurrectionis gloriam perducamur. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Memorare, o piissima Virgo Maria

Memorare, o piissima Virgo Maria, non esse auditum a saeculo, quemquam ad tua recurrentem praesidia, tua implorantem auxilia, tua petentem suffragia esse derelictum. Ego tali animatus confidentia ad te, Virgo Virginum, Mater, curro; ad te venio; coram te gemens peccator assisto. Noli Mater Verbi, verba mea despiciere, sed audi propitia et exaudi. Amen.

Oremus pro Pontifice

V. Oremus pro Pontifice nostro Ioanne Paulo.

R. Dominus conservat eum, et vivificet eum, et beatum faciat eum in terra, et non tradat eum in animam inimicorum eius.

Sancti Apostoli Petre et Paule

Sancti Apostoli Petre et Paule, intercedite pro nobis.

Protege, Domine, populum tuum; et Apostolorum tuorum Petri et Pauli patrocinio confidentem, perpetua defensione conserva. Per Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Requiem aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace.

Thank You

The officers and members of the Latin Liturgy Association wish to express their sincere thanks to the Dom Moquereau Foundation and to its executive vice-president, Theodore Marier, for the copies of the Liber Cantualis which we have received as a gift from the Foundation.

Europa Latina?

In our last newsletter we quoted Pope John Paul II who was in turn quoting Cicero to the general effect that it is shameful not to know Latin. The quotation was from a speech given on November 27, 1978 to the participants in a Latin composition contest sponsored by the Vatican foundation "Latinitas". The specific quotation was addressed in the Holy Father's words, "Ad iuvenes." On June 6, 1979 Pope John Paul turned to young people again. At a Mass for the seminarians in Jasna Gora, Poland he departed from his prepared text at some length. Among his spontaneous remarks was an exhortation to the seminarians to keep up the "important" study of Latin.

In an important address given by Felicitas Corrigan, O.S.B. at the Brompton Oratory on October 14, 1978 (a full text appears in Millhilliana) Pope Paul VI is quoted to the effect that Latin is the ordinary liturgical language for communities in solemn vows. This talk points out in passing what may be the greatest problem we face, "Our seminaries are turning out young priests who have never been taught how to say a Latin Mass, much less sing it, and who have no idea how to sing Mass in English." Is this the problem that has led the Pope twice to address young students and seminarians on the importance of Latin?

If knowledge of Latin by the next generation should be our greatest concern, the Vatican has pointed out a concern only slightly less important: that Latin retain its vitality. On July 16, 1979, Father Ernest Piacentini, Secretary of Latinitas gave a talk on Vatican Radio. Pointing to Senegal, where Latin is being introduced in the schools, he said, "Africa docet." Father Piacentini said that the teaching of Latin is required in all seminaries and ecclesiastical universities and defended the language against its unjust reputation as hard to learn. What is most interesting is what Father Piacentini proposes for the future: that all nations of the European Common Market have at least one half hour per day of television programs in Latin, that all European passports be in Latin and that a referendum be held on making Latin the official language of the European Common Market.

Father Piacentini described Latin as the language most adapted to a people with astronauts, robots, telex machines, radios and televisions. This is true only if knowledge of it is kept alive. Pope John Paul I said that Latin expresses the universality and unity of the Church. (September 3, 1978). This is also true but only if knowledge of Latin survives. Our first task if Latin liturgy is to survive is to assure that Latin survives as a living language known to future generations.

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