

Tridentine Community News

May 25, 2008

A Comparison of the Texts of the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms of Mass – Part 15

We conclude our comparison of the Tridentine and Novus Ordo Mass texts. Not all options in either missal are presented; rather, we present Mass as typically experienced in both forms. Keep this series together to see a complete comparison of both forms of Holy Mass.

Extraordinary Form/Tridentine Mass

PRAYERS AFTER LOW MASS, CONTINUED

A: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.

P: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: That we be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

P: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and our strength, look down with favor upon Thy people who cry to Thee; and through the intercession of the glorious and immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, of her spouse, blessed Joseph, of Thy holy apostles, Peter and Paul, and all the saints, mercifully and graciously hear the prayers which we pour forth to Thee for the conversion of sinners and for the liberty and exaltation of Holy Mother Church. Through the same Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

A: St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine Power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

P: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

R: Have mercy on us! (three times)

[End of Holy Mass.]

Ordinary Form/Novus Ordo Mass

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL, CONTINUED

[The Ordinary Form Mass has ended at this point.]

Final Thoughts

By now, it has surely become apparent that the Ordinary Form Mass is significantly shorter than the Extraordinary Form, even without substituting the more frequently heard Eucharistic Prayer II or III for the Roman Canon. In a sung Mass, some of the extra length of the Tridentine Mass is counterbalanced by the fact that the congregation and choir sing certain parts of the Mass while the celebrant proceeds forward. For example, the celebrant starts to recite the Canon immediately after reciting the Sanctus, while the congregation and/or choir continue to sing the Sanctus.

The Prayers at the Foot of the Altar at the beginning of Mass and the elaborate Offertory prayers have essentially been eliminated in the Novus Ordo and replaced with significantly shorter prayers. The Extraordinary Form prayers and rubrics emphasize the sacrificial aspect of the Mass and the unworthiness of the priest, while the Ordinary Form places more emphasis on the community gathered for Mass.

Those of us in English-speaking lands should also note that the richness of both of the Ordinary and Propers of the Mass have been diluted in the current, less-than-accurate ICEL English translations of the original Latin of the Novus Ordo. Even when the Latin has changed little if at all between the Tridentine and Novus Ordo, the English translations now portray quite different meanings. This applies even if the Tridentine Mass is translated using Modern English, as one finds in a few hand missals such as the Maryknoll. The topic of translations will be addressed in a future column.

Whether or not you prefer the Extraordinary Form, we hope this series has helped you to ask yourself what Mass is all about. What is the purpose of our attending? What does our worship say about our underlying beliefs? Have we lost anything of value in the last 40 years?

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail tridnews@stjosaphatchurch.org. Previous columns are available at www.stjosaphatchurch.org