

TRADITIONAL CHAPELS IN ALABAMA

Our Lady of Lourdes
Roman Catholic Chapel
Montgomery, Alabama

St. Francis of Assisi
Roman Catholic Chapel
Cullman, Alabama

St. Pius V
Roman Catholic Chapel
Birmingham, Alabama

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

10:30 A.M. - Rosary
10:45 A.M. - Mass
(ONLY on First Sunday
of each month)

6:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.
Every Sunday
6:00 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Holy Days

9:10 A.M. - Rosary
9:30 A.M. - Mass
(EXCEPT on first
Sunday of each month)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 26, 2000 - - - Purple

Mass of Sunday - no Gl. Cr. Pref of Lent

Weekly Bulletin # 609

LENT

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPERIENCE - HOLY EUCHARIST PART III

If the main worship event in the New Order catholic church is structured as a banquet or meal - then the authorities of the New Order catholic church who have directed that the event be treated as a banquet, have every right to expect obedience.. They have every right to call for a head table, and they have every right to place a presiding officer at the head table. They also have every right to remove the Altar of Sacrifice, since an Altar of Sacrifice is out of place in a banquet hall. Furthermore, the directive that the presiding officer should face his guests - THE PEOPLE - is also in order. After all, good manners demand that the host at the head table should face his guests. Therefore, the focus of attention should be -PEOPLE -, and all the activity at the festive event should be conducive to better fellowship and good cheer. The center of importance is - PEOPLE -, and the unity of the PEOPLE. Unity, of course, is demonstrated by various actions suitable to the expectations of all who seek fraternity and good fellowship. The main duty of the host at the head table is to keep the PEOPLE'S interest. He must see to it that all present receive bread and wine. Bread and wine go to make up the main course of the entire banquet, and the action of sharing becomes the symbol of the Christian Community. The action of the PEOPLE eating and drinking the symbolic food and drink - in a spirit of togetherness - is intended to keep the PEOPLE mindful that they have a friend in Jesus.

If this setting is the proper setting for the Church founded by Jesus Christ - on the night before He died, then the "AD ORIENTEM" (to the East) controversy should not be a controversy at all. If the people are at the very center of importance in the worship event, then it follows that they should be looked upon as the center of importance.

But the Church of the Ages does not speak of a "banquet". The Church of the Ages speaks only of SACRIFICE. The element of Sacrifice has the authority of some two thousand years, and that authority reaches all the way to the Hands of Jesus Christ, Himself - WHO HELD UP BODY AND BLOOD!. Therefore, the focus of importance cannot be centered upon the people present. The center of importance is the Blood of the Lamb which is the sacrificial offering to the Heavenly Father. THE ONE WHO MAKES THE OFFERING IS NOT A PRESIDER - - - HE IS A PRIEST! He is one ordained precisely for the purpose of representing the people in their participation of the Sacrificial Act. People together with their representative - the priest offer up the Blood of the Lamb. Now - - - should not the proper people arrangement be for all TO TURN AND FACE THE ONE TO WHOM THE SACRIFICE IS BEING OFFERED? At this point the directives relative to the Fellowship banquet become controversial! The "AD ORIENTEM" directive becomes controversial! Scripture speaks of "sacrifice" since the time of Cain and Able.

The directives that control the banquet atmosphere are conducive to a happy banquet atmosphere. The directives that control the atmosphere conducive to Sacrifice and which call for prayer, fasting, mortification, reparation and penance present quite a contrast to a people who has been taught over the past several years that prayer, fasting, mortification, reparation and penance are really not to the point. As a matter of fact, recent developments underline this point of view, and we are hearing that Faith without good Works is, after all, sufficient! Where there is prayer, and fasting and mortification and reparation and penance you easily find reverence, awe, inspiration, piety and respect. On the other hand, where there is feasting on bread and wine, all in attendance enjoy fun and frolic and party foolishness. The ludicrous and the bizaare are quite common at dinner parties. At such events, and in halls where such events take place, reverence, awe, inspiration, piety and respect are nowhere to be seen.



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