



# CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE -- PROPER DRESS

It is destressing to see how casually many Catholics dress when they attend Holy Mass. True, our culture now glorifies the "casual" and oftentimes "sloppy" look; many dress casually to attend the theater or an opera. But that should not be the case when it comes to attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. There we go to meet God and we should show him the respect that is His due. When we go to Mass we should dress in a respectful, perhaps even slightly subdued manner, wearing the best we have and in the best way possible for God. The following instructions (not UNCOMMON) spell out in detail the dress code followed at well organized golf courses. Reprinted from the "Homelitic and Pastoral Review"

## Dress at Mass



■ A small pamphlet spells out a golf course's dress code clearly. On the course, "Men must wear shirts with a collar or turtleneck shirts," "All shirts must be tucked in," "All hats must be worn peak forward and outdoors only." In the country club dining room, "Jacket and tie are required for gentlemen aged 17 and over at all times," "Ladies must wear a dress, skirt, or slacks," and no matter where you are, "Jeans, denim, and sweat clothes are not tolerated anywhere on the property." Does this seem harsh? Do we look down on the country club's rules? Do we worry about the need for the members and their guests to be comfortable whether on the course or sitting at table? Should the club's owner just be happy that people are coming? Probably not; most likely people appreciate the atmosphere that is created when people are dressed up. They might even look forward to dressing up for dinner at the country club, as a fancy night out.



Can you imagine what would happen if we printed a similar card with guidelines of how to dress for Holy Mass? What pastor in his right mind would issue such instructions to his people. What if ushers enforced this "dress code" as diligently as the country club attendants enforce their rules for dress?



*Come  
Holy Ghost  
Fill the Hearts  
of Thy Faithful*