

## *A sort of examination of conscience*

- Is the Liturgy lived as the ‘origin and summit’ of ecclesial life, in accordance with the teaching of Sacrosanctum Concilium?
- Has the rediscovery of the value of the Word of God brought about by liturgical reform met with a positive confirmation in our celebrations?
- To what extent does the Liturgy affect the practice of the faithful and does it mark the rhythm of the individual communities? Is it seen as a path of holiness, an inner force of apostolic dynamism and of the Church’s missionary outreach?

cf. Pope John Paul II, *Spiritus et Sponsa* 6.

## *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*

### *The Importance and Dignity of the Eucharistic Celebration*

17. It is therefore of the greatest importance that the celebration of the Mass — that is, the Lord’s Supper — be so arranged that the sacred ministers and the faithful taking part in it, according to the proper state of each, may derive from it more abundantly those fruits for the sake of which Christ the Lord instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of his Body and Blood and entrusted it to the Church, his beloved Bride, as the memorial of his Passion and Resurrection.

### *The Choice of the Mass and Its Parts*

352. The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be truly heightened if the texts of the readings, the prayers, and the liturgical songs correspond as closely as possible to the needs, spiritual preparation, and capacity of participants. This will appropriately be achieved by use of the broad options described in chapter VII.

In planning the celebration of Mass, then, the priest, should pay attention to the common spiritual good of the People of God, rather than his own inclinations. He should also remember that choices are to be made in consultation with those who perform some part in the celebration, including the faithful in regard to the parts that more directly belong to them.

Since, indeed, a variety of options is provided for the different parts of the Mass, it is necessary for the deacon, the readers, the psalmist, the cantor, the commentator, and the choir to be completely sure before the celebration of those texts for which each is responsible is to be used and that nothing be improvised. Harmonious planning and carrying out of the rites will, to a great extent, help dispose the hearts and minds of the faithful to participate in the Eucharist.

*What sort of formation issues do these texts raise for you?*

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