

# *Unit Eight: The Liturgy of the Hours*

## **1. The Power of the Liturgy of the Hours**

*The reason to celebrate*

**The Aim of the Reform** (SC83-101)

- Prayer of praise and thanksgiving
- Prayer whose chief source is in scripture, sanctifying the day:  
*morning and evening*

## **2. Historical Development**

Hebrew prayer before Christ (*showing continuity to present day*)

The Prayer of Christ

The prayer of the early Church (Acts)

'Cathedral' office — *simple form followed in parishes*

Monastic development — *growing elaboration*

Rome, 'the breviary', Council of Trent

2nd Vatican Council: SC Ch.5: *to bring LOH back to everyone's reach*

## **3. Theology**

**1 — Basis:** SC1-14. GILH chaps. 1,2

**2 — Meaning**

Praise — thanksgiving

*praise — a warm human acknowledgement of God as he is Chief means of expression: THE PSALMS*

Priestly work of Christ (SC7, 83,94: GILH 7, 12)

- *Where there are even two or three, Christ is among them All share in this communal prayer*
- *Sanctification of time*
- *Concern for world of today*

## **4. Content and Structure**

Examine principally Morning and Evening Prayer

- *Adaptations and simplifications*

## **5. Celebration (GILH 27)**

How & when

Music

The setting; the use of symbols

Ministers

Ritual

Styles

## **6. Preparation**

Practical, Theoretical, Spiritual

## **APPENDIX: other forms of prayer**

Simple forms of LoH (revived 'cathedral' type)

Use of elements of LoH on particular occasions:

- *legion of Mary, parish meetings*
- *Weekday morning prayer in the absence of a priest*

Prayer around the Cross  
Prayer at Home  
Blessings

## ***Documentation and Bibliography***

**General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours [GILH].** Recommended version:  
**The Liturgy of the Hours**, ed. with a commentary by A-M.Roguet OP. Geoffrey Chapman 1971.

D.A.Withey **Catholic Worship:** Kevin Mayhew 1990, ch.13

J.D.Crichton **Christian Celebration** Part 3: The Prayer of the Church. Geoffrey Chapman 1981

George Guiver **Company of Voices: Daily Prayer and the People of God** SPCK, 1988

Robert Taft **The Liturgy of the Hours in East and West.** Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 1986. Detailed and scholarly.

Articles in **Liturgy**, Vol5:1; Vol 13: 4 and 5.

A.G.Martimort (ed) **The Church at Prayer**, Vol IV, pp 151-275. Geoffrey Chapman,1986