

The Catholic Voice

(Under the patronage of St. Joseph)

Newsletter of the Society of Traditional Roman Catholics

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*"...And it came to pass,
that when they were
there, her days were ac-
complished that she
should be delivered. And
she brought forth her
first-born Son, and wrapt
in him swaddling cloths,
and laid Him in a manger
because there was no
room for them in the inn.*

Luke Chapter 2

The Season Of Christmas: A Renewal Of Our Hope

"A Child is born to us; a Son is given to us . . . and His Name shall be called the Prince of Peace."

It must have been terrible to live in the days of the Prophets, longing for the coming of the Messiah. The longer He delayed His coming, the more impatient everyone became. Faith was tested and hope seemed to fail so long as the Redeemer stayed away.

The delay in the Redeemer's arrival cannot be explained by saying that God didn't care for His Chosen People or that He wished, by His delay, to bring them into further subjection. No, Jesus did not come for nearly 4,000 years because the Chosen People really needed to want the Redeemer to come and that needed to say to God that they were powerless without Him. He wanted them to purge from themselves any ideas of improper self-reliance. They needed to be a nation who were guided by faith in God and nourished by supernatural hope. It was to a people of hope that Jesus came. Those strong in hope saw Jesus for the Redeemer that He was.

Our times are not unique. While Jesus, the Promised Redeemer, has already come, we grow impatient in ways similar to the Chosen People. God's Holy House has been destroyed and an Abomination of Desolation is standing in its midst. Jesus promised us centuries ago that He would be with us all days, even unto the end of the world, but He didn't say that we would never have opposition or that things would always go well. The message of Christmas is that He has come, and He has given us the means to triumph over evil, and these means can be found at the encouraging sight of His birth in the stable of Bethlehem. Simply souls, loving souls, trusting souls -- those who see in Him the Messiah despite the humble surroundings, will find at Christmas a renewal of hope and a deepening of love. Our prayer for you and your families and loved ones at this time is that your hope will be renewed at this holy season. †

O Come All Ye Faithfull!

**On behalf of the editorial staff
of The Catholic Voice
and all the members of the board
of the Society of Traditional Roman Catholics,
we wish to extend to you our sincere wishes
for a very Blessed Christmas
and a holy and grace-filled New Year.**

Larry Martin
President, STRC

Robert De Piante
*Publisher
The Catholic Voice*

Fr. Kevin Vaillancourt
*Editor
The Catholic Voice*

Prayers Are Encouraged For STRC Directors & Families

We wish to explain to our readers the circumstances that have lead up to the abbreviated issue you are now reading.

Long time readers of The Catholic Voice have read many articles from Bob De Piante, the Publisher, and Larry Martin, the President. They are the Founding Fathers of STRC, so to speak, and their continued work insures that the vision they had over ten years ago will still meet its expectations.

The STRC and all the work it entails is a labor of love and devotion of these two men. They have given over many, many hours of their free time to see to the needs of this apostolate. Nearly all of the work that must be done to operate what is known as the Society of Traditional Roman Catholics is done by these two men.

The technical parts of STRC are given over to Larry Martin. He maintains the Society computer bulletin board, adds articles for all to read, and keeps up on current Mass locations for all who ask. He also does some of the key entry work for the newsletter. Larry also doubles as the STRC Treasurer.

Bob De Piante is the Secretary of STRC. His duties are not limited to just corporate matters. He handles most of the correspondence (an ever increasing load), sends out the premiums for each issue and between him and his wife Dorothy, their personal lives are willingly disturbed by the daily phone calls made, not to an STRC office, but to their home in Charlotte, North Carolina.

At the time of the printing of this issue, Larry Martin was confined to a hospital for a blood disorder. While his health is not at the critical point right now, there are number of things he needs to do to insure hat there are no more repeats of his

current condition. With Larry Martin unable to perorm his duties, Bob De Piante's have increased

Some attempting call the STRC phone number the past few months may have had to settle for leaving a message on the answering machine. Others may not have had their correspondence answered in the timely manner as it has been. There is a twofold reason for this: Bob and his wife, Dorothy, have been travelling a lot either while working on building a new house outside Charlotte, or else back to their homes towns in Pennsylvania where both of their mothers are critically ill. Family duties such as these will always take precedence, and who can blame them for what they are doing? It is an exhausting time for them right now. Please remember them and their mothers in your prayers.

Due to these situations, the work of the STRC will be on hold for a few months. We wanted to at least send our readers our Christmas greetings and to offer an explanation for a period of silence in our work that may occur for a few months. We are not going to discontinue the work of the Society of Traditional Roman Catholics, just put the day-to-day work temporarily on hold until at least after our annual board meeting in late February or early March. At that time we will have more of an idea how to best relieve the burden of Larry and Bob and still meet the growing needs of our readers.

Again, we thank you for your understanding at this tie. We wish you and yours all the blessings of the Christmas Season and a grace-filled New Year. We ask for your prayers and promise to keep you in ours. †

The Best Way To Attend Holy Mass Is To Pray The Mass

by FR. ARTHUR TONNE

From his book, "Talks On The Mass", 1950

A common complaint among the modernists is that the Mass has to be changed from the Latin into the vernacular because few people have a working understanding of Latin. When Mass is said in the vernacular, they say, there will be no doubt about the words the priest is saying. However, this comment is begging the question. There is a presumption throughout all this that a majority of the Catholic faithful are imbeciles and that they sit, starry-eyed, on the edges of their pews without even a clue as to what is happening at the altar.

Blanket assumptions like this come from shallow hearts and weak minds. I do not wish to jump to the conclusion that the learned men who propose liturgical novelties do so out of a spirit of malice, purposely distorting the facts so that radical changes can be made in the Mass that will satisfy their aims.

These modern teachers of liturgical practice miss the point. Hundreds of times each day, throughout our land and the entire world, the Catholic faithful are taught by their pastors, and good, devoted religious men and women how it is they should attend Mass. Young children are taught by the venerable Sisters before their first Holy Communion how to assist at Holy Mass. These young minds cannot comprehend all the Latin that the priest says, to be sure, but if anyone should approach such a child at Holy Mass after he has been instructed by the nuns, and there ask the child what Father is doing at the altar, I dare say that even this young child can tell the inquisitor with accuracy comparable to the child's age what it is that Father is doing at Mass. It is not the fault, then, of the Church for keeping the faithful from understanding the Mass because it is said in Latin. No, it is through the lack of devout instruction of the faithful and/or the wilful ignorance of indevout Catholics that so many of the faithful claim that they do not know what they are doing at Holy Mass and that the Latin Mass has no meaning to them.

In order to derive the greatest blessing from Holy Mass, we must attempt to gain a deeper devotion and understanding of this sublime Sacrifice.

Praying with the understanding is the aim and ambition of Holy Mother Church for all her children, especially with regard to the Mass. It is impossible for every parish in the world to have the good Sisters conducting instructions for all the faithful. But, it is possible to strive for the day when every Catholic able to read will have a Missal at Mass and will follow with understanding what is going on and what is being said at the altar.

Unquestionably, the best method of assisting at Holy Mass is with a Missal, that is, a book which gives the English translation of what the priest is saying at the altar. More and more Catholics are using this intelligent method of assisting at the Holy Sacrifice.

While all people do not have what are known as "Daily Missals", many have a shortened form of the large Missal

which the priest uses at the altar. It gives the Masses for the Sundays and the principal feasts. Some of these have been so simplified and easily arranged that any Catholic with average intelligence and reading ability can easily follow the prayers. Whether a daily missal or a Sunday missal is used, the end result will be the same: those attending Mass will do so with devotion and understanding. This is the prayer expressed by Pope St. Pius X, who said: *You must not only pray at Mass, you must pray the Mass.*"

The various prayers and ceremonies indicate that it is the parental desire of Holy Mother Church that the faithful cooperate actively with the priest in the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries. Mass is not the exclusive task or function of the priest; it is the united sacrifice of priest and people. It is true that only the priest has the power of consecration and the power of officially offering sacrifice. Nevertheless, in that offering, he is assisted by the faithful. The best way for all of us to appreciate this is by the use of the missal.

When a missal is not used, a lot is missed. While the priest will read the Epistle and Gospel before the sermon at Sunday Mass, the many beautiful Scripture passages quoted during the Mass will be missed. The whole theme of the Church for a particular Sunday is found by a prayerful reading of these words. Without a missal one cannot find the treasure of graces found in the many prayers of the Mass.

As strongly as the urging is to assist at Holy Mass with a missal, the use of the missal is not by any means mandatory. There are many other methods of assisting at Holy Mass that can provide the soul with a large share of graces, yet they are not the same as praying the Mass with a missal in hand. A good number of people have some favorite prayers or devotions which they have used since childhood. Unless they use these, they do not feel they have been to Mass. Others are to be found fingering Rosary beads. This, too, is a Eucharistic devotion. The Creed is the part of the Mass as well as the Our Father. Both of these prayers are to be found in the Holy Rosary. If the recitation of the Rosary during Mass leads the faithful to have more devotion and attention during Mass, then, with God's blessing, pray these prayers and recite those devotions each time the Holy Sacrifice is offered.

Regardless of the method used in assisting at Holy Mass, the most important thing is that we all come to Mass fully prepared. Coming to Mass just because we must will wither the heart and quench the flame of charity. The human mind can all too quickly wander, so when we come to assist at Mass we will need some assistance to keep our minds at their proper attention.

Liturgical modernists are doing all they can to convince us that the Latin Mass will be the downfall of the Catholic Church in our modern age. We must be willing to show them that the answer to increased devotion and attention at Mass is not through the introduction of novel ideas. Rather, it comes from personal efforts to derive all possible fruit from our attendance at Mass. †

Statement of Purpose

The CATHOLIC VOICE is the newsletter of the Society of Traditional Roman Catholics, a non-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

The Society is a Catholic Apostolate, of both lay and clergy, established to work for the full restoration of traditional Catholic rites, most especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass of the Council of Trent, the ancient Latin Mass.

We, the directors and officers of the Society pledge our fidelity to the Roman Catholic Church and to her teachings as handed down by the Sacred Magisterium through the centuries. We dedicate ourselves and the works of our apostolate to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

We place our efforts under the patronage of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, and offer all we do in the name of Jesus Christ for the greater honor and glory of God. We invite all Catholics to join in our work. †

Among The Saints We Honor

(These are only some of the days in the next few weeks devoted to honoring a specific saint. The feast days of all saints are listed in the calendar which is distributed every year by The Society of Traditional Roman Catholics).

St. Francis Xavier	December 3
Immaculate Conception	December 8
Our Lady of Loretto	December 10
Our Lady of Guadalupe	December 12
St. Frances Cabrini	December 22
Nativity of Jesus	December 25
St. John Evangelist	December 27
Holy Innocents	December 28
Circumcision	January 1
Holy Name of Jesus	January 2
Epiphany of Jesus	January 6
Chair of Unity Octave	January 18 - 25
St. Agnes	January 21
St. John Chrysostom	January 27
St. Francis de Sales	January 29
Purification BVM	February 2
St. Blase	February 3
Our Lady of Lourdes	February 11
St. Bernadette	February 18
St. Gabriel of O.L. Sorrows	February 27

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