

CONSTITUTION ON THE SACRED LITURGY (Sacrosanctum Concilium)

Vatican II – December, 1963

- I. Introduction (#1-4)
 - A. The aims of the Council
 1. to impart new vigor to the Christian life of the faithful
 2. to adapt to the needs of our times all that needs adaptation
 3. to promote unity among all believers in Christ
 4. to strengthen the work of evangelization
 - B. The Church is actualized and made manifest in the liturgy (2)
 1. God's people, fully participating, become the visible presence of Christ in the world (2, cf. also 26, 28, 41)

- II. Theological and pastoral principles for the reform and promotion of the liturgy grounded in a vision of Christ and the Church (#5-46)
 - A. The nature of the liturgy (#5-13)
 1. Christ, through his life, death, and resurrection, is the instrument of the salvation of humankind (5)
 - a. through this pascha of Jesus the Church is born (5)
 - b. all Christian liturgy is rooted in the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ (5-6)
 2. Church continues the mission of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all creatures (6)
 3. Christ always present in the Church and its liturgy (7)
 - a. in the minister
 - b. in the eucharistic elements
 - c. in the sacraments
 - d. in the proclamation of the Scriptures in the assembly
 - e. in the Church gathered for prayer and praise (7)
 4. Each liturgy is a realization of the priestly office of Jesus Christ, accomplished by the whole body of Christ, head and members (7)
 5. The Church's earthly liturgy participates in the heavenly liturgy, toward which we journey as pilgrims (8)
 6. Liturgy does not exhaust the entire activity of the Church (9)
 - a. presumes faith and conversion, based in evangelization, catechesis, and mission (9)
 7. Liturgy is the fount and summit of the Christian life (10)
 - a. evangelization, conversion, faith find full expression in liturgy (10)
 - b. liturgical celebration leads to life of holiness and discipleship (10)
 8. For liturgy to be effective, the faithful must participate with proper dispositions (11)
 - a. pastors: concern for good celebration (more than observance of laws) (11)
 - b. people: prepared and actively engaged in the liturgy (11)
 - developing their lives of personal prayer and spirituality (12)
 - c. popular devotions: oriented to, and harmonized with, the liturgy (13)

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- III. Promotion of liturgy: active participation (#14-20)
 - A. Central goal of liturgical reform: full, conscious, and active participation of all in liturgical celebration (14)
 - 1. right and duty of the baptized (14)
 - 2. pastors must be filled with spirit/power of liturgy through good theological and pastoral training in seminaries (15-18)
must offer catechesis which fosters the participation of all:
through word, ritual gesture, song, silence, bodily attitudes (19; cf. also 30, 48-50, 113)
- IV. Reform of the sacred liturgy (#21-46)
 - A. Reform must take place: liturgy involves elements subject to change as well as immutable elements (21)
 - 1. reform guided by competent authority (22)
 - 2. reform will involve an organic development of liturgical rites which is theologically, historically, and pastorally sound (23)
 - 3. scripture is central to worship (24)
 - 4. liturgical books must be revised (25)
 - B. Specific Norms
 - 1. liturgy is the work of the whole Body of the Church (26)
 - 2. communal celebrations are always preferable to “private” celebrations (27)
 - 3. all members of the assembly have a role and each should fulfill his/her appropriate role (28)
 - 4. the quality of each ministry is important (29)
 - 5. the role of the whole assembly requires care (30-31)
 - 6. liturgical rites should not require explanation (34)
 - 7. scripture readings need to be central and more varied (35)
 - 8. preaching requires more focus (35)
 - 9. more extensive use of the vernacular is encouraged (36)
 - 10. liturgy must be adapted to the culture and traditions of the peoples (37-40)
 - genius and talents of various peoples are appropriately incorporated into liturgy insofar as they foster its true spirit (37)
 - goal is unity rather than uniformity within the Roman rite (38)
 - inculturation process guided by appropriate authority (39-40)
 - 11. liturgical life must be promoted on national, diocesan, and parish levels (41-46)
- V. Specific agenda for the reform of liturgical rites (#47-130)
 - A. Eucharist (47-58)
 - 1. essential for homily to be preached (52)
 - B. Other sacraments and sacramentals (59-82)
 - 1. restoration of the Catechumenate (64)
 - C. The Liturgy of the Hours (83-101)
 - D. The Liturgical Year (102-111)
 - E. Sacred music and art (112-130)