

The Liturgy has always been kept within reach of the learning abilities of the ordinary people who cluster around and about it. As it has thus always been, so must it now be a source of instruction and edification and joy for the people as they go about living their busy daily lives. Each year the Liturgy repeats itself, and each year it unfolds and develops yet another point of the inexhaustible realnesses of the Life of Jesus Christ. The Liturgy is not a presentation of a series of externalisms and empty ceremonials – cold and dead pageantry – meant to attract the elite, the haughty and the well educated. Sad to say, the Sacred Liturgy has become just that in certain places, and at such places the beauty of the Liturgy has become quite artificial and manufactured, and its effect has been much weakened. The magnificence of the artifact, the glory of the vestment, the cost of the decor, have all overshadowed the poverty of life and spirit which the Liturgy is supposed to inculcate and impress upon the minds of humble people. True and accurate Catholic Liturgical Experience is alive and it is vested with a profound Faith. The Liturgy lives – it is not dead and stifled by a set of quite antiquated rules. Throughout the ages of the Church this has been true. The Liturgy should adjust itself with reasonable care to the spiritual impoverishment of Man. It lives to lead the people closer to an understanding of their God. It must strive to pick up the people from the mire of this earth and lift them up to the heights of the New Jerusalem – to SANCTITY. The sweet fragrance of good Liturgy goes along with the faithful People of God as they climb up the steep paths of the Spiritual Life. It helps them. It is not an art form! It is not to be enjoyed as an art form! It is not to be kept intact and guarded as though it were an inviolable art form! The Liturgy is not art – it is holiness being lived – by priests and people! Liturgy should inspire people to reverence and dignity and peace. It is never noisy, never grandiose, never vulgar, never pompous and stagy. Liturgy is a natural thing and it should flow naturally, touching the lives of those who live near and about it.

Until recent years, the use of the Latin language, because it was once the universal language, gave the Liturgy a universal quality. Today this is no longer true. Today, this can no longer be true try as you may! Latin is now a very much forgotten language, enjoyed only by a handful of scholars as they sit around a manufactured setting. The people no longer comprehend or understand it, they cannot pronounce even the simplest of Latin words – yet there continues to be an inordinate attachment to its use. It is unfortunate that Latin has been made to be a central concern in certain traditionalist circles today – to the detriment of the basic purpose of Traditional Roman Catholicism. Because of the grumblings of the people and their constant demand for the return of the Latin Liturgy, Latin has been brought back in certain places and has been mixed in with the modern way of Catholic worship. But the people have been quieted,

*This issue of The Speculum is devoted to the observance of the  
Feast of Corpus Christi - and to our love of the Most Blessed Eucharist*