

Preface to the Monastic Ordo of the Traditional Catholic Benedictine Abbey of Christ the King Revised for the year 2001 A.D.

THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED, we, the Benedictine Monks of Christ the King Abbey, in Alabama, - U.S.A. have prepared this ORDO for the Work of God, that is, the Liturgical ceremonial life lived by the Monks of this Abbey - the Prayer Life. This ORDO claims no force of authority; it cannot, since there is no centralized authority of any Traditional Roman Catholic description in existence today that can rightly set down specific applications of rules concerning proper Catholic Life. The approval of the contents of this Ordo does not have the binding force of any law. Approval here simply means that the superiors and the Monks of the Monastery of Christ the King have accepted as appropriate - for themselves - the orderly presentation of those items of the liturgical ceremonial and life of worship herein outlined, which, in the opinion of the Monks, maintain fairly the norms that governed the true and accepted Catholic Benedictine Traditional Liturgical Experience as determined and handed down through the ages by our venerable Benedictine and Catholic Forefathers. We do not make our own standards! With constant and unwavering Faith and good will, we try as best we can to adhere as closely as possible to the established time tested norms set down by our Forefathers. We are striving to abide by and apply the regulations that were standard in earlier days. Let there be no question about it, the monks of this Monastery have pledged themselves to the Most Blessed Eucharist and to the observance of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass solely according to the form ordained by the council of Trent. As far as the ceremonial itself goes, and all of its importance, the monks find it unreasonable to give the traditional, ceremonial landscape the emphatic importance that is given to it by some. Many well-intentioned traditionalist Catholic people, unacquainted with the proper way to live Catholicism, have forged a manufactured Catholicism, which is far from correct. We must keep first things first, and we must clearly understand that whatever takes place in the House of the Lord is not a staged play, it is serious labor - - the most serious. At the same time, this ORDO makes no allowance for the introduction of any novel and strange forms of worship so prevalent today in non-traditional (New Order) Catholicism. Such forms of worship must be considered to be entirely alien to true Catholic Tradition and unworthy in the expression of the true Catholic Faith. Furthermore, it follows, that any such frivolous acts of worship bring into question the intention of the celebrating minister, who, if not acting absolutely in conformity with the requirements of the true Catholic Religion, cannot perform an act of Eucharistic Transubstantiation.