

THE LETTER KILLETH

It appears that with some of our traditionalist catholic people, the importance of the **MECHANICS** of the Roman Catholic Experience has been given priority of importance to such a degree that the fundamental importance of the **SPIRIT** of the Roman Catholic Experience has all but been completely overshadowed.

As Roman Catholics who are striving to maintain the Sacred Traditional Catholic Religion, our principle concern and worry must be to retain our contact with the true and authentic spirit of the Roman Catholic Experience. The mechanics of our Catholic Religion are important only if they flow from the blessed spirit of our Religion. Let us not be so concerned, therefore, about the mechanics - - the legalisms and all such like of our religious service and observance. It cannot be denied that mechanics are nonetheless important, in that they at first are the attraction that draws souls. However, it must always be remembered that mechanics must give way - as soon as possible - to the blessed spirit - the fundamental reason - for our Holy Religion.

Mechanics and legalisms can all be learned from a book. When practical experience and helpful formation do not accompany them, they usually become exaggerated ceremonials and burdensome directives, very hurtful to the Faithful who are forced into participation. Under proper guidance - - prompted by the blessed spirit of our Traditional Religious Life - they will be kept within the bounds of right reason. The letter kills! The spirit gives life! The spirit is rooted in our Holy Faith, and Faith is given - a gift - to those who seek after it and pursue it. If TRUE love of God and of our neighbor is not at the very center of everything we do, then everything we do is utter hypocrisy.

Our Holy Religion must never be allowed to become a **MANUFACTURED ACT OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP** - - very proper but very empty! Love of God has to be the centerpiece of our every thought, our every work, our every word, and our every action. If love of God is not at the center of our very being, reverence and worship and respect cannot exist, and consequently, our journey through life will ever remain a fruitless undertaking.

If the spirit of our Holy Roman Catholic Religion is ever allowed to die out, it will stay gone forever, and our Holy Roman Catholic Religion will go also, and then all that will be left for us "to have and to hold" will be the relics of our empty, but highly proper, mechanics. □