



GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LITURGY - WITHOUT BORDERS

ABOUT GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LITURGY WITHOUT BORDERS

Welcome to the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy - Without Borders (the Guardians) website. Created and moderated by Susan Fajardo (MThS - Liturgy, PGD Liturgy, LLM, PGLP, LLB, BSC Acctg), the Guardians is a platform created for the Catholic faithful who love adoring and glorifying God above all else through the sacred liturgy. Sacred liturgy refers to the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (the Mass) albeit also included as liturgy are the rites and rituals of the other Sacraments of the Church and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Created on 23 March 2022 and launched on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, 19 June 2022, the “Guardians” is an initiative with a MISSION to address and correct LITURGICAL IMPROPRIETY (liturgical abuse) in liturgical celebrations in the Catholic Church worldwide (Without Borders). We will carry out this mission by promoting LITURGICAL LITERACY among the Catholic faithful around the world. To this end, the "Guardians" has developed a Liturgical Literacy Program that will be a source of knowledge and information about the Sacred Liturgy and other related topics. Treatises including manuscripts and videos containing liturgical laws, rules and norms as well as other related topics based on juridical and magisterial documents of the Universal Church will be published for the education of the followers and visitors of the website.

Originally created as a social media platform for sharing comments and posts regarding liturgical abuses on Facebook, at the start of 2023, the Creator decided to change the direction of this initiative from a discussion forum on Facebook into a platform for education and formation of the Catholic faithful on the Sacred Liturgy. This way the contents of the Guardians Facebook page and the website will be restricted to accurate and legitimate information about the sacred liturgy based on juridical and magisterial documents issued and published by authoritative sources coming from the Holy See.

As a function of the MISSION to address liturgical impropriety or liturgical abuse, the Guardians will ensure that liturgies, whenever or wherever held, are celebrated properly and faithfully in accordance with established liturgical laws, rules and norms. In essence, we, the Guardians, will address the liturgical abuse in the Catholic Church by promoting *ars celebrandi* or the proper celebration of the sacred liturgy, protecting it from “irreverence and distortion,” breaking the pattern of liturgical abuse and preventing the abuse from happening again.

To carry out this mission, it is critical that the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders have the correct and adequate knowledge of the sacred liturgy, that is, that they are liturgy

literate. Hence, the Guardians will enable its followers to acquire liturgical literacy through education and formation programs such as the Liturgical Literacy Program.

Though the Guardians is an initiative of LAY Catholic faithful independent of the hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church, our *modus operandi* will always be a collaborative one, in which we will be working closely with the Church, walking together with God through Jesus Christ in the Church, and for the Church, in the service of its evangelizing mission, accompanied by the Holy Spirit. This walking together of the People of God, the lay and the ordained in the hierarchy of the Church, is the whole idea of Pope Francis' Synodality in the Church.

As a lay initiative, the Guardians will *be vigilant concerning the correct and worthy celebration of so great a mystery*. As the Psalmist says, *it is time for the Lord to act, the people are breaking his laws*. The time to act is now, through us, the People of God, the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders. There will be a mountain of challenges along the way that would seem insurmountable but we will persevere with fierce determination and steadfast spirit. The work that the Guardians will be doing is, in fact, mandated by the canons of the Church particularly the liturgical laws, rules and norms founded on the Scripture.

To wit, in accordance with the juridical document, *Instruction Redemptionis Sacramentum*:

[183.] In an altogether particular manner, let everyone do all that is in their power to ensure that the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist will be protected from any and every irreverence or distortion and that all abuses be thoroughly corrected. This is a most serious duty incumbent upon each and every one, and all are bound to carry it out without any favouritism. (emphasis supplied)

[184.] Any Catholic, whether Priest or Deacon or lay member of Christ's faithful, has the right to lodge a complaint regarding a liturgical abuse to the diocesan Bishop or the competent Ordinary equivalent to him in law, or to the Apostolic See on account of the primacy of the Roman Pontiff. It is fitting, however, insofar as possible, that the report or complaint be submitted first to the diocesan Bishop. This is naturally to be done in truth and charity. (emphasis supplied)

In order to carry out this mission, the Guardians will need inventive skill and prophetic vision. Innovative measures that have not been done before elsewhere will be pioneered. In my research, I have not come across any initiative that have dealt with liturgical abuses in any jurisdiction in the Catholic world. So far, different sectors of the hierarchical Church including dicasteries, cardinals, bishops and even popes, have talked the talk, written admonitions about liturgical abuses but to no avail. Why? Because no affirmative action has ever been taken. Liturgical abuses that existed since the Early Church continue to persist in the present time without any hope of liturgical celebrations improving, with minimal, or NO abuse.

We acknowledge that as LAY people of God, we will not be able to completely accomplish the Mission of addressing and correcting the liturgical abuses in the short term and on a global scale. It is an existential reality. However, in the whole scheme of things, the Lay People of God will be the driving force to move the Church into accomplishing this Mission. To this end, further

research is underway, and a new bigger initiative that will involve all the players in the Mission of the Church working together in Synodality will be presented. I call this initiative the QUADRANT INITIATIVE (QI) where the Lay People of God as the fourth Quadrant will have a vital role. This will be the topic of another future conversation soon to be had. Suffice it to say that this vision is currently a work in progress. With God's grace in the Spirit of Wisdom, this prophetic Vision will come to fruition.

We, the Guardians, dare to hold a prophetic vision of an ideal and worthy worship in a heavenly Jerusalem, the Catholic Church, as in the perfect worship of the angels and saints happening constantly and perpetually in the heavenly Kingdom.

In the meantime, the Guardians will endeavour to educate the People of God and impart the knowledge about the truth OF, and IN the sacred liturgy through its Liturgical Literacy Program (LLP) to equip the future Guardians in carrying out its Mission of addressing and correcting the *irreverence and distortion* which the Church calls liturgical abuse in liturgical celebrations.