



GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LITURGY - WITHOUT BORDERS

LITURGICAL LITERACY PROGRAM (LLP)

BASIC FRAMEWORK



FOREWORD

What is *liturgical literacy*? The term *liturgical literacy*, simply put, is having the *knowledge of the truth OF, and IN* the sacred liturgy. The liturgical literacy I am talking about here refers to the accurate and precise *knowledge of the truth OF and IN* the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Holy Mass, in the Catholic tradition. I am emphasizing this point to distinguish our “*liturgical literacy*” from other forms of liturgical literacy being used albeit loosely by other denominations. Our “*liturgical literacy*” in the Roman Catholic tradition is based on the Roman Missal and other liturgical documents, and ecclesiastical laws of the Catholic Church issued by the Holy See.

Why do we need to have knowledge of the truth of, and in the sacred liturgy? Is it not enough to just attend the Mass and participate in the celebration of the liturgy? No. Not really. The participation that the faithful is required to do is full, conscious and active in order to gain the full efficacy of the grace that the sacred liturgy offers. The faithful can participate fully, consciously and actively only if we understand and appreciate the essence of the sacred liturgy or

the Mass, that is, what really happens during the celebration of the Mass. To understand and appreciate the Mass we need to have knowledge of the truth of, and in the liturgy. There is so much to learn about the sacred liturgy. And this is what we are going to learn in the Liturgical Literacy Program (LLP) of the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders.

The **Liturgical Literacy Program (LLP)** is the means by which liturgical literacy can be acquired. The LLP is being offered by the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders to any Catholic who loves adoring and glorifying God above all else through the sacred liturgy, the Mass, and is passionate about fully, consciously and actively participating in a liturgy that is properly celebrated. According to Pope Benedict XVI (*Sacramentum Caritatis*), a liturgy that is properly celebrated is necessary, a *sine qua non*, for a full, conscious and active participation of the faithful. The problem is, liturgical impropriety or abuse abounds in liturgical celebrations in the Catholic world.

LITURGICAL IMPROPRIETY (ABUSE)

What is liturgical abuse? Liturgical abuse is the term that the Catholic Church uses for impropriety in liturgical celebrations. It is disobedience to or non-compliance of liturgical laws, rules and norms. The Council of Trent decreed that improper celebration of the liturgy, that is, disobedience to liturgical laws, rules and norms is a sin. Sadly, as acknowledged by the Universal Church, to name a few -- Pope John Paul II (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*), Dicastery (formerly Congregation) of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*), Pope Benedict XVI (*Sacramentum Caritatis*) and Pope Francis (*Desiderio Desideravi*) -- liturgical abuse is widespread in the Catholic world. It is a global concern, not only of the Universal Church but of the faithful of the Catholic world as evidenced by posts and comments in different social media platforms.

The significance of the Sacred Liturgy in the contemporary life of the Body of Christ, the Church, and its members cannot be understated, and the need to protect it from “irreverence and distortion,” and to stop liturgical abuse must not be ignored. The Universal Church itself declares that the liturgical abuse must cease and exhorts the faithful, putting the onus on the faithful, to do everything in their power to correct liturgical abuses. (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, par 183) The liturgical abuses have gone too far and too long. Lip service sans action is not going to bear fruit. The Universal Church has talked the talk. But no one has walked the talk or walked the walk. It

is now time to act. As the psalmist says: “*It is time for the Lord to act, the people are ignoring (breaking) his laws.*” (Ps 119:126)

GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LITURGY WITHOUT BORDERS and the LITURGICAL LITERACY PROGRAM (LLP)

This is where the Guardians come in. The Mission of the Guardians in a nutshell is to address liturgical abuse in liturgical celebrations. This is our response to the call and challenge of the Church expressed in the document Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* at paragraph 183 which says:

“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.”

At par 184:

[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.

Before we act to address liturgical abuses, we need LITURGICAL LITERACY to enable and empower us to identify the abuses or impropriety in liturgical celebrations. Without adequate knowledge of the truth of and in the sacred liturgy, we will not have the skill to identify liturgical impropriety or abuse in the celebration of the Mass.

More details will be provided as we progressed through the different modules of the program.