



GUARDIANS OF THE SACRED LITURGY - WITHOUT BORDERS

LITURGICAL LITERACY PROGRAM (LLP)

MODULE 1



OVERVIEW OF THE LITURGICAL LITERACY PROGRAM (LLP) MODULES

Introduction

The Liturgical Literacy Program (LLP) is a formation course designed to help the Catholic faithful acquire liturgical literacy. Liturgical literacy is, simply put, knowledge of the liturgy---- its proper celebration, liturgical rules and norms, liturgical impropriety or liturgical abuse, active participation of the faithful, roles and duties of the lay faithful and more. According to the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, a liturgy properly celebrated is a *sine qua non*, a pre-requisite, of a full, conscious and active participation of the faithful. Liturgical literacy is vital to both the proper celebration of the liturgy and to the full, conscious and active participation of the faithful.

To acquire liturgical literacy, it is critical for both the clergy and the faithful to receive accurate and adequate liturgical instruction. To this end, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) dedicated a whole section (II) in Chapter 1 articles 15 – 18 to ensure that the clergy become adept in liturgical literacy . Without going through the details of the whole section of instructions for the clergy, it suffices for the benefit of the faithful in general to cite art. 16 that requires that the study of liturgy be taught under its “**theological, historical, spiritual, pastoral, and juridical aspects**” to understand fully what it is that they are doing

when they celebrate the Mass and “to live the liturgical life”. Article 19 requires the “pastors of souls” to promote “liturgical instructions of the faithful, and also their active participation in the liturgy both internally and externally...”.

Liturgical literacy, therefore, requires knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the liturgy in its theological, historical, pastoral, spiritual and juridical aspects. This leads to fidelity and commitment to the proper celebration which in turn empowers the faithful to participate in the celebration fully, actively and consciously aware of what they are doing.

It is to this end that the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders developed the Liturgical Literacy Program (LLP). The course covers the study of the sacred liturgy in all its aspects --- theological, historical, juridical, spiritual and pastoral--- as these topics will help the faithful understand and appreciate better the sacred liturgy, in particular, why the sacrament of the Eucharist, the Mass has to be celebrated in a particular way.

The basic framework of the LLP comprises ten modules. Albeit the basic framework is constant, contents may vary depending on the roles performed by the lay faithful attending the course. Initially, the program series will be delivered by videos and/or podcasts that will run for 30 – 40 minutes. The videos will be in a lecture format presenting the theories of the topics, in other words the knowledge to be learned. There will also be a downloadable copy that will be posted on the website. After completion of each module, there will be an online tutorial summarizing the salient points of the module for those interested to learn more depending on the need expressed by the learners. This will be an opportunity for the participants to ask questions or clarifications and for the presenter to expound on areas that need more explanation.

OVERVIEW OF THE MODULES

Module 1 presents some fundamental concepts that serve as foundation for the whole program to aid in a better understanding and appreciation of the sacred liturgy and the Program. The concepts are rooted on the Scripture, Tradition and canons of the Church.

Module II provides the theological foundation of the sacred liturgy based on the Scripture starting from the Old Testament to the New Testament demonstrating the link between the Old

and the New covenants between God the Father with the Son of God, Jesus Christ and the people of God.

Module III explores the historical evolution of the sacred liturgy from the Apostolic period through to significant eras in a span of over 2,000 years up to contemporary times. It will be interesting to discover the transformation of the early simple liturgies to the beautifully choreographed Roman liturgies through to the current Novus Ordo liturgy that we celebrate in our time.

Module IV is the most crucial component of liturgical literacy as noncompliance of this aspect of the sacred liturgy constitutes liturgical abuse subject to canonical sanctions up to a maximum sentence of excommunication and dismissal of a contumacious clergy. The Universal Church laments and condemns all forms of liturgical abuse and exhorts priests to cease committing it. This is the primary reason the Guardians of the Sacred Liturgy Without Borders was conceived and created. A significant amount of time will be spent on this module.

Module V After learning the theology and history of the sacred liturgy as well as the liturgical laws, rules and norms of its proper celebration as discussed in previous modules, the LLP learner will have a better understanding and appreciation of what constitute proper celebration and active participation where the roles of the clergy and the lay faithful will be clearer. Other elements of the sacred liturgy such as the liturgical environment, sacred art and music will be discussed.

Module VI delves into the problem of liturgical impropriety officially referred to as liturgical abuse by the Universal Church. Details of liturgical abuses in the Church will be examined as well as the cause of liturgical abuse. The role, responsibility and obligation of the lay People of God in addressing and correcting the liturgical abuse in the Church will be explored.

Module VII explores the spiritual and pastoral aspects of the sacred liturgy. The liturgy, the Mass, does not end when the priest and the lay faithful leave the Church. When the priest says the words of the Dismissal after the blessing, the priest sends the faithful to continue their spirituality and pastorate in their daily lives with their family and the community at large.

Module VIII After learning the knowledge of the truth about the sacred liturgy in previous modules, the LLP learner will be ready to explore what is next, that is, what to do with the knowledge acquired. The function of the Guardians in addressing liturgical abuses will be discussed. Furthermore, an abstract of the prophetic vision, the Quadrant Initiative (QI), will be explored.

Module IX Now is the time for action planning. This will be either individualized according to the circumstances of the Guardian under study or general action plans for a group of learners with similar needs.

Module X Let's get started.