

Sacrosanctum Concilium I

Myths about the Liturgy

- 1) What are some of your “favorite” myths about *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and Vatican II? For those who are old enough to remember the Council and the early years following the implementation of the renewed liturgy (1962-1975), how did your experiences of Mass change during this period? Were the changes you experienced mostly in response to what the Council asked for, or more due to myths being promoted at that time?
- 2) Is the time of myths about Vatican II over? Do you notice any new myths taking place of the old ones? What can we do to be more faithful to the intentions of the Council and help others understand the proper celebration of the liturgy?
- 3) What kind of music did the Council recommend for the Roman Rite under the revised liturgy? Do you think that Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony currently enjoy “pride of place” in the liturgy today? What does it mean to give these styles “pride of place” while still allowing for other legitimate options (for example, hymns and psalm settings in English)?

The People’s Participation in the Liturgy

- 4) *Sacrosanctum Concilium* described the need for “full, conscious, and active participation” on the part of the people present at the liturgy. What does that look like for you? What difficulties do you experience in achieving full, conscious, and active participation at the Mass? What will you do to better participate in the future? (Remember, participation is both “internal” and “external,” SC 19).
- 5) The Council opened the way for Masses to be said in English and other modern languages so that the people could better understand the liturgy. “Nevertheless,” it said, “steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them” (Gloria, the Creed, Holy, the Lord’s Prayer, Lamb of God, etc.) Why does the Church still want us to know Latin? How does knowing the Latin prayers aid the goal of full, conscious, active participation? Do you personally know the Mass parts in Latin, or are you willing to learn them?
- 6) The liturgy is sometimes referred to as “the work of the people,” but the Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus’ body and blood for the salvation of the world. How is it that both these statements can be true?