

What Vatican II Really Said about the Mass

Week 4: The Most Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist (SC 47-58)

Review

1. What are some names commonly given to the Mass celebrated prior to the Second Vatican Council and to the Mass after the Council?
2. In what parts of the Mass and under what circumstances did the Council allow for the vernacular?
3. Did the Council remove Latin from the Mass?

The Most Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist

1. Christ's work at The Last Supper (SC 47)
2. Duties of the faithful at Mass (SC 48)
3. Christ the great mediator (SC 48)
 - St. Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 A.D.), *Commentary on the Gospel of John*, Book 11, Chapter 12: "For the Son dwells in us in a corporeal sense as Man, commingled and united with us by the mystery of the Eucharist; and also in a spiritual sense as God, by the effectual working and grace of His own Spirit, building up our spirit into newness of life, and making us partakers of His Divine Nature. *Christ, then, is seen to be the bond of union between us and God the Father; as Man making us, as it were, His branches, and as God by Nature inherent in His own Father. . . . We have, therefore, been made perfect in unity with God the Father, through the mediation of Christ. For by receiving in ourselves, both in a corporeal and spiritual sense, as I said just now, Him that is the Son by Nature, and Who has essential union with the Father, we have*

been glorified and become partakers in the Nature of the Most High.” (Emphasis added)

4. Goals for revising the Mass (SC 50)

5. Scripture in the revised Mass (SC 51)

- Psalms 19:7, 10: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul . . . More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.”
- Ezekiel 3:3: “And he said to me, ‘Son of man, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.’ Then I ate it; and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.”
- John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- John 6:53-54: “So Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.’”
- Revelation 10:10: “And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.”

6. The homily (SC 52)

7. The common prayers/prayers of the faithful (SC 53)

- 1 Timothy 2:1-2: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.”

8. Use of the vernacular and Latin in the revised Mass (SC 54)

9. Communion under both species (SC 55)

- Council of Trent (1545-1563 A.D.), Session 21, “Decree on Communion under Both Species and the Communion of Infants”:
“It moreover declares, that although, as hath been already said, our Redeemer, in that last supper, instituted, and delivered to the apostles, this sacrament in two species, yet is to be acknowledged, that *Christ whole and entire and a true sacrament are received under either species alone; and that therefore, as regards the fruit thereof, they, who receive one species alone, are not defrauded of any grace necessary to salvation.*” (Emphasis added)

10. Relationship between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (SC 56)

11. Concelebration (SC 57-58)

Reading for Next Week

Chapter III (Articles 59-82)