

What Vatican II Really Said about the Mass Week 6: Liturgy in Time (SC 83-111)

Review

1. What is the purpose of the Sacraments?
2. What changes to the preparation and reception of catechumens did Sacrosanctum Concilium decree, and why?
3. What is a Sacramental, and how does it differ from items of popular piety?

Chapter IV – The Divine Office

SC83: Beyond Mass, the priestly work of Christ is continued in the Divine Office, wherein He unites the church with himself in the ceaseless hymn of praise and intercessory prayer to God the Father.

- In taking on human nature, Christ enters into time. These next two Chapters show how through the day (Divine Office) and year (Church Calendar) the Paschal Mystery of Christ is continually temporalized (brought into time) for us.

SC86: The Divine Office is a tradition of hourly prayer going back to early Christian times.

- Fulfills St. Paul's exhortation to pray without ceasing.
- It is a **liturgical** prayer; along with Mass it forms another aspect of the public worship of the church.
- **SC87-88:** Desire of VII to see the Office made more accessible, and prayed by all, not just professed religious.

What is the Divine Office? - Also known as the Liturgy of the Hours, it is a four-week cycle of psalms, biblical readings, songs and prayers of intercession, blessings, and readings from spiritual writers that is designed to sanctify the passage of the day with prayer.

- Traces roots back to Jewish Custom, continued with early Christians and became disconnected from the laity from Medieval times until Vatican II
- Currently we have 7 hours; Matins (anytime after Midnight) **Lauds** (6am) Terce (8am) Sext (11am) None (3pm) **Vespers** (sunset) and Compline (after sunset before sleeping)
- Its organization points us again to reflect upon the Paschal Mystery

SC89 – 92: Norms for revision stress accessibility for the lay, renewed called for better appreciation of scripture

SC93: Mentions of metrical hymnody, which found its use first in the divine office. The Divine office is a song, should be sung whenever possible (**SC99**)

SC94-101: Canonical Requirements of professed religious, laity, and language

CHAPTER V: The Liturgical Year: Mary and the Saints are duly honored, but primarily the church year should temporalize the paschal mystery.

SC106: Every Sunday is a mini-Easter.

SC109: Lent has a twofold nature: Baptismal and Penitential

SC108 & SC111: Saint feast days are important, but should be subordinate to the proper of time (life, death and resurrection of Christ)

HOMEWORK for next week: CHAPTER VI & VII, articles 112-130