

What Vatican II Really Said about the Mass Week 7: Music, Art and Architecture (SC 112-130)

Review

1. What is the importance of the Divine Office in relation to prayers like the Mass and personal devotions,
2. Why does the proper of time in the church calendar take preference over feasts of saints?

Chapter VI – Sacred Music

SC112: Music is valued above the other artforms because it functions as an integral part of the liturgy itself.

- The more closely connected to the Liturgical action, the more holy it is.
- Pope Pius X outlined the “needed qualities,” those being *holiness, goodness of form and universality. (Tra Le Sollecitudini)*
- Purpose of sacred music is to glorify God and sanctify the faithful.

SC114: Treasury of sacred music is to be fostered, active participation of the lay fostered as it pertains to their role. (refers to **SC28** and **30**)

SC116: Gregorian chant is especially suited to Roman liturgy, should be given pride of place.

- “Other things being equal” meaning if everything occurs ideally as expected.
- Other kinds of *sacred* music, especially polyphony, admitted as well.
- **SC117** supports with desire for quick revision of chant books.

SC118: Religious singing should be fostered, but it is distinct from liturgical musical practices.

SC119: Adaptations for inculturation, especially in those lands that have not yet been fully evangelized.

SC120: Pipe organ is held in high esteem, due to historical and theological significance. Other instruments admitted pending approval and suitability.

SC121: Call for new compositions, varying in usability, but texts must conform with Catholic doctrine, drawn from scripture or liturgical sources.

Chapter VII – Art and Furnishings

SC122: Art is important and needed in sacred spaces; the church should prefigure the beauty of Heaven.

- Church reserves the right to decide what is and is not worthy of adorning the temple.

SC123: No single style espoused. Unlike music, art does not function as part of the liturgy, and so there is greater opportunity for stylistic flexibility.

SC124 – 125: Noble simplicity rather than sumptuous display and should be ordered and placed correctly.

SC126 – 128: Artists should be carefully taught, education fostered, commissions set up, and canons continually revised as necessary.

- Artists recognize and bear in mind the important weight of their task.

Appendix – Support for perpetual civil calendar

What significant post Vatican II liturgical change hasn't been mentioned?