

Tridentine Community News

August 8, 2010

Congregational Responses in the Low Mass – Part 2 of 2

By the grace of God, we now have the privilege of attending Low Masses in the Extraordinary Form every Monday at St. Josaphat Church at 7:00 PM, and every Tuesday at Windsor's Assumption Church at 7:00 PM. In an effort to answer questions that have been posed regarding the congregation's spoken responses at a Low Mass, we present the remaining relevant excerpts from the authoritative document, *De Música Sacra*, the Instruction on Sacred Music and Sacred Liturgy issued in 1958 by the Sacred Congregation for Rites (now known as the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments):

33. The faithful may sing hymns during low Mass, if they are appropriate to the various parts of the mass.

34. Where the rubrics prescribe the *clara voce*, the celebrant must recite the prayers loud enough so that the faithful can properly, and conveniently follow the sacred rites. This must be given special attention in a large church, and before a large congregation.

[End of citations]

Local Custom for the Responses

De Música Sacra permits varying customs to evolve in different places as to which responses are made by the congregation. At London, England's Brompton Oratory, for example, the congregation is silent throughout the entire Low Mass. At the churches in Detroit and Windsor where this column is distributed, the congregation joins in all of the responses of the Low Mass except the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar at the start of Mass. This custom is also observed at High Mass.

Being customs and not rubrics, there is nothing inherently wrong with members of the congregation participating in more or fewer of the responses along with the altar servers.

Postures During Low Mass

Similar to the rules on making responses, the particular postures for the congregation during Holy Mass are matters of custom rather than rubrics. In practice, there is more consistency from church to church with regards to posture than with regards to the responses.

Postures for Low Mass are as follows:

Entrance of priest	Stand
From beginning to Gospel	Kneel
At the Gospel	Stand
At the <i>Credo</i>	Stand
During the Offertory	Sit
From the <i>Sanctus</i> to the Last Gospel	Kneel
At the Last Gospel	Stand
Prayers After Low Mass	Kneel

Exit of priest

Stand

Postures During High Mass

As long as we are on the subject, it is appropriate to list the postures during Sung Masses, both Missa Cantata (celebrated by a priest alone) and Solemn High (celebrated by a priest with the assistance of a deacon and subdeacon):

During the processional entry	Stand
During the <i>Aspérages</i>	Stand
From beginning to <i>Glória</i>	Kneel
At the intoning of the <i>Glória</i>	Stand
<i>If the congregation sings, remain standing.</i>	
<i>If the choir only, sit when the clergy do.</i>	
<i>Dóminus Vobiscum</i> and Collect(s)	Stand
At the singing of the Epistle	Sit
At the singing of the Gospel	Stand
At the announcements and Homily	Sit
At the <i>Credo</i>	Stand
<i>As at the Glória.</i>	
<i>Dóminus Vobiscum, Orémus</i>	Stand
During the Offertory	Sit
<i>Rise when the congregation is incensed</i>	
Preface dialogue to <i>Sanctus</i>	Stand
<i>Sanctus</i> , Canon, Communion	Kneel
<i>Dóminus Vobiscum</i> and Postcommunion	Stand
At the Blessing	Kneel
Last Gospel to exit of clergy	Stand

Young Adult Pilgrimage in Diocese of Lansing

Reader Paul Schultz, a leader of Generation Christ in Ann Arbor, invites young adults to join their "Pilgrimage for Christian Culture" from Camp De Sales in Brooklyn, Michigan to Queen of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Jackson, Friday-Saturday, August 13-14, 2010. The themes will be: Reparation for Sin, Restoration by Grace, and Reform of Life.

Modeled after the annual Pentecost pilgrimage to Chartres Cathedral in France, pilgrims will pray along the way. The Rosary in Latin will be taught and prayed. Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Mass (on Friday in the Ordinary Form, on Saturday in the Extraordinary Form) and Confessions will be available daily.

You may come for one day or two, for 2 miles or 27. The pilgrim assistance corps is able to drop you off and pick you up along the route, to suit your schedule.

Registration in advance is required. For more information, including a schedule of events, e-mail Paul at paulschultz@gmail.com, call (734) 646-0430, or visit www.genchrist.net/pilgrimage.