

Table Talk

by Fred Moleck

Just How Tridentine Are You?

One of the astute readers of TableTalk was good enough to inform me that the cardinal who was officiating at the May 24 Tridentine Mass at St. Mary Major in Rome was Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyas, not Cardinal Francis Arinze as I reported in last week's column.

I am grateful for the correction and any help anyone can give me in my keeping the cardinals straight. I was correct, however, in identifying Cardinal Law in the picture.

One of my queries was, Who still has the knowledge and capability to celebrate a Tridentine solemn high Mass without going to a dozen different sources for rubrics and repertory?

So, I devised a little self-examining checklist to see if you are equipped to rehearse and perform the music that the Tridentine rite needs to recapture the masses of yesteryear with full understanding of the choreography of the sacred drama unfolding in front of our very eyes.

Preparation for the Mass - The Sprinkling Rite

During Ordinary Time, what is sung while the priest sprinkles the congregation as he walks up and down the aisle?

- Introibo ad altare Dei
- Asperge me, Domine
- Vidi aquam
- Plorate filii Israel

During Paschal Time, what is sung while the priest sprinkles the congregation as he walks up and down the aisle.

- Haec dies quam fecit Dominus
- Va pensiero
- Vidi aquam
- Rorate caeli desuper

What gesture does the priest make while intoning the Gloria?

- Orans, but it cannot stretch beyond the shoulder blades
- Genuflection
- A circle which is elevated in one motion with the hands meeting in a praying position
- Left hand on the chest, right hand raised in a half-orans

What is the posture of the priest and servers during the singing of the Gloria and the Credo?

- Kneeling, facing east. If no one knows which direction is east, he kneels one direction for the Gloria and another direction for the Credo.
- Seated
- Standing with hands on the altar
- Standing, versus populum, arms akimbo

When is the Gradual and Tract sung?

- During the Sundays of Advent
- During the Sundays of Lent
- Only on Quinquagesima and Septuagesima Sundays
- Never. They are always recited

What posture do the congregation and the priest and the servers assume during the singing of "Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine et homo factus est"?

- Standing in rapt attention
- Kneeling and striking one's chest in a highly stylized version of the flagellation ritual of the penitentiary
- Face cupped by the hands with elbows on the pew and posterior on the other pew.
- Levitation

Should the priest and servers ever seat themselves during the Gloria and Credo, what is the name of the piece of furniture on which they sit?

- Caecilia
- Cillia
- Sevillia
- Sedilia

What is the difference between the solemn preface and the solemnior preface?

- The solemnior is used only in the eastern church
- The solemnior is not really a preface, but an archaic honor given to some holier-than-thou prelates.
- The solemnior is longer with a few more extended ligatures
- The solemnior is intended only for Masses in a retreat setting for musicians

On what important feast is the Agnus Dei omitted?

- Magna Charta weekend
- Holy Thursday
- St. Agnes feast day
- The foundress's anniversary of her election

In chant, where is the arsis and where is the thesis?

- Right where you left them
- Somewhere in the binary and ternary patterns
- Flanking the Infant of Prague

You see why so many folks bemoan the fact that, since the Mass went into English, we've lost so much of the mystery.

Guess what? The mystery is still there, but it's not in a foreign tongue, and it's a ritual that makes very clear where one is in the worship chain.

**GIA
Publications**

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by someone
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be imitating
Martin Luther.**