

SOCIETY FOR CATHOLIC LITURGY



Virtual Lecture Series

Saturday March 20, 2021: 11:00 am EDT [3 pm –London]

<https://notredame.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJmIfuigrjMoG9UBYar5SgTB0RsKNjjVji2t>

The Mass in the Later Middle Ages: Decline and Vitality

Fr. Uwe Michael Lang

Standard liturgical textbooks have generally tended to give the later medieval period (from about 1200 onwards) short shrift: the early Christian Eucharist, which originated as a spirit-filled expression of communal worship, is said to have become an almost exclusively clerical exercise of a hypertrophied ritual system. The faithful would occupy themselves with private, largely visual devotions while the priest as the ritual professional offered Mass at some distance, in a language they could not comprehend. This reading fitted into a general narrative of a Church in crisis that almost inevitably led to the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. In recent decades, however, historians have offered new perspectives on Christianity in the later Middle Ages and have highlighted that elements of decline and vitality existed side by side.

Wednesday April 14, 2021: 3:00 pm EDT

<https://notredame.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsdu2orz0oHtckAllTUmBCWDdAMPQoQW08>

Eucharistic Sacrifice in Maurice de la Taille: Does it (still) matter in today's Church?

Michon M. Matthiesen

The publication in 1921 of Maurice de la Taille's three-volume work on the Eucharist, *Mysterium Fidei* was greeted with mixed reviews: high praise from figures (like Lambert Beauduin) of the early Liturgical Movement, and skepticism from Thomists casting doubt upon its allegedly 'new theory' of sacrifice. This presentation will treat some central features of de la Taille's eucharistic vision, to the end of asking whether or not his thought has any purchase in the current liturgical climate. I want to suggest that it does—theologically and ritually, as well as in terms of a healthy ecclesiology and liturgical spirituality.

Wednesday May 19, 2021: 7:00 pm EDT

<https://notredame.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvc-mgpjluE9Emx91wPvR70xhsqWt5pnX3>

Suspecting Suspicion: What We Can Know of the Early Eucharist

Fr. Daniel Cardó

In the past decades, influential works of liturgical scholarship have followed the historical skepticism of mainstream New Testament studies, therefore doubting the historical foundations of key testimonies received in Scriptures and other early documents, particularly the connection between the Last Supper and the early Eucharist. Prominent studies have looked for the origins of the Eucharist in the meals of Jesus with his disciples and in Mediterranean meals and symposia.

Undoubtedly, the sources for reconstructing the early Eucharist are limited and the picture of eucharistic practice in the first three centuries is not as clear as after the age of the great Fathers and the great liturgies. But, if we look directly at those sources, what can we actually know? Is the knowledge of early eucharistic understanding and practice at odds with what developed in later centuries? In this lecture, after reviewing the methods of modern liturgical scholarship, I will offer an overview of what we can confidently know of the early Eucharist.