# THE LITURGY 827198 AND THE LAITY

YOUR HEARTS

. HE LIFT UP

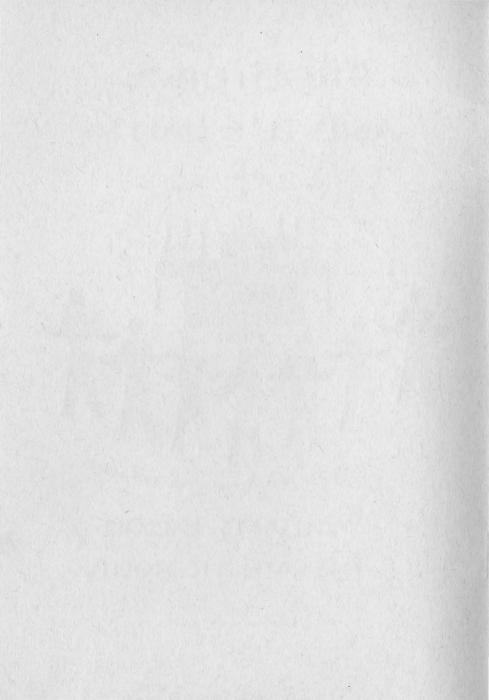
Lallou, William J. The Liturgy ...

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WE HAVE LIFTED THEM UP TO THE LORD

## WILLIAM J. LALLOU THE CATHOLIC HOUR





## THE LITURGY AND THE LAITY

### By

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Four addresses delivered in the nationwide Catholic Hour (produced by the National Council of Catholic Men, in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company), on Sundays from June 7, through June 28, 1942.

	Page
une 7 Why Should We Have Liturgy?	3
une 14 The Supreme Act of the Liturgy	8
une 21 Lay Participation in the Liturgy	14
une 28 Oriental Rites in the Liturgy	20
tatement of the Catholic Hour's purpose	25
ist of Stations Carrying the Catholic Hour	26
ist of Catholic Hour Pamphlets	28



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC MEN Producers of the Catholic Hour 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C.

Printed and distributed by Our Sunday Visitor Huntington, Indiana Nihil Obstat

REV. T. E. DILLON Censor Librorum

IMPRIMATUR: JOHN FRANCIS NOLL, D. D. Bishop of Fort Wayne

#### WHY SHOULD WE HAVE LITURGY?

Address delivered on June 7, 1942

One who picks up the catalogue of a college rarely fails to be mystified by the titles of some of the courses listed in its curriculum. When the college is a theological seminary and the casual reader a layman, it is exceptional not to find at least one subject of the course whose name gives one pause. So. when we find *liturgy* listed on the theological curriculum, one is apt to be puzzled as to its definite meaning even though his knowledge may not be so elementary that he confuses liturgy with literature. So at the outset of this series of talks on the liturgy of the Church, it seems logical and not at all superfluous to define the word, liturgy. We are not going to become pedantic to the degree of tracing the steps by which the Greek word, leitourgia, has come to mean the official worship of the Church. which we express by the term, liturgy. So let us state at once that the accepted definition of liturgy is: the public worship of God as regulated by the Church. There are certain fundamental relationships, which exist between God and man, which exist whether man thinks of them or not. But man can and does know and think of

these relationships, that he is God's creature, dependent upon God for his being and destined for God as his final end, that he owes God thanksgiving for divine blessings and reparation for human shortcomings. When man gives expression to his sense of these relationships between himself and his Creator, he is said to worship God. But this worship is not yet liturgy. The expression of the individual's convictions of his dependence upon God will vary with one's own peculiar disposition. It will be effusive. or restrained, extravagant or dignified, hysterical or rational. His in-, dividual worship may be much more satisfactory to him personally than the organized worship which we call liturgy. He may have moments of greater spiritual exaltation as he feasts on the glories of the sunset or contemplates the wonders of the stars than he has at an elaborate religious function. He may thrill with greater spiritual elan as he listens to a great symphony than when he is the hearer of a Sunday sermon. He may feel greater sensible devotion as he kneels alone in a tiny chapel than when he forms a unit in a vast congregation in a great cathedral. All

this is very true, as it is true that he must externalize his devotion one may worship God in any place in His wide creation, at home or in the street, at work or at play, on the mountain top or by the seashore, in the busy city or in the quiet country. But all this worship is not liturgy. If man finds such satisfaction in this unorganized worship of God, why must we have liturgy whose ceremonial somedistracts times man from hig thoughts of God more than it helps him to concentrate on his relationship with God?

We may glimpse an answer to this difficulty by remembering that the individual man is not himself alone. Not only as an individual must he pay to God the worship of adoration, thanksgiving, repentance, and petition, but as a social being, as a member of the society organized by Christ to perpetuate His work on earth, the Church, must he pay tribute to his Creator. The cult of God rendered to Him by men as members of this society must evidently, to be official, be regulated by the governing authority in the Church. The individual citizen, in private life, may give expression to his patriotism in a variety of ways, some of them perhaps better than the officially prescribed ceremonies indicative of loyalty to country. But when the individual is associated with his fellow-citizens

to his country in definitely prescribed fashion. It is conceivable. though most unlikely, that some citizen could design a flag which would be a more expressive emblem of the United States than our present flag, just as it is conceivable. but in this case more likely, that an individual could compose a hymn more distinctive of the spirit of this country than our national anthem. Nevertheless, the stars and stripes form our official flag, to be saluted as such, and the accepted chant of the Republic is the "Star Spangled Banner." In like manner. the official public worship of the Church is conducted according to definite forms regulated by the Church, even though at times these may not be so inspiring and satisfactory as his private worship is to the individual Christian. We do not have liturgy till this individual is associated with his fellows, and not associated in any chance fashion but as members of an organization, the Church, which has its official, public worship of God, as a society, distinct from the private worship which may be practiced by the single member at home or elsewhere outside of Church. An organization, of its very nature, has the right to enact legislation to govern the conduct of its members when they are associated in its official assemblies. The result of such legislation, in the case of the Church with reference to her members assembled for public worship, is liturgy.

Not all public worship is liturgy. It must be official as well as public to be classed technically as liturgy. There are many popular devotions, sanctioned by the Church, to some extent even regulated by her, which are not considered as part of the liturgy, because they are not prescribed by the Church and are not to be found in her official service books. For example, the Devotion of the Three Hours, which crowds our churches on Good Friday, is not liturgical, while the morning function of that day which concludes with the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified, is prescribed as the liturgy of Good Friday. The Holv Hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which has such a popular appeal for Catholics, is much encouraged by the Church but nowhere prescribed as is, for instance, the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament on Corpus Christi. Even so favored and so beloved of the peoble as is the Way of the Cross, richly indulgenced by the Church, it is still strictly speaking not part of her liturgy. We could imagine a Catholic Church without Stations of the Cross, though it would be an oddity, but we could not imagine

one without an altar. The former provides for a popular devotion while the latter is needed for the supreme act of the liturgy, the celebration of Mass. To be liturgy, a function must be not only public or popular, not merely sanctioned by the Church, but it must be part of her official ceremonial, an obligatory observance, found in her official service-books,—the Missal, the Ritual, and the Breviary, to mention only the most important ones.

For the purposes of these talks, we must assume the existence of a Church and its commission to continue the work of Christ on earth and hence to regulate the official public worship of God, which is to be understood by liturgy. In the course of age-long development, the ritual of the Church has acquired a technique which regulates its minutest details. Catholic ceremonial worship is often criticized and, in defence of a more austere cult, the Scriptural verse is guoted that we should worship God in spirit and in truth. A purely intellectual cult of God without external forms would be indeed a worship of Him in spirit but it would not be a worship of Him in truth. It would not be true to man's nature. We are men and not angels. We are composed of body as well as soul, of matter as well as spirit. Consequently, the body with its senses, and not alone the soul with its faculties, should render homage to the Creator. The whole man, body and soul, is concerned in religious worship. The material part of man is the instrument of the soul to express the activities of the soul. This is true in all departments of human life. We are not content, for example, with thinking well of our neighbor. We must give visible expression to our good thoughts of him. We manifest our love or our friendship by a tender embrace or a firm clasp of the hands. We show our sympathy with the bereaved or our memory of the dead by certain conventional signs, by sending messages and flowers, by wearing mourning clothes. As there have been developed certain conventions in our intercourse with our fellows. so has the Church developed a ceremonial expression of man's religious thoughts and feelings in the official. liturgical worship of God.

The result has been an artistic expression of divine worship. Someone has defined the function of art to be the union of the soul of meaning to the body of expression. The Church has summoned poetry and music, architecture and symbolism, painting and sculpture, pageantry and costume, to contribute each its share in the artistic development of the liturgy. No praver is recited, no action is performed, no garment or utensil is employed, but is deep with meaning and consecrated by the usage of ages. Some of our ceremonies come from the example and precent of Jesus Christ Himself. Some are taken direct from the pages of Holy Writ Some were in use in the Church of the Catacombs All have the pating resulting from centuries of use. It is true that we are not always able to account for the origin of every detail of liturgical practice. The beginnings of some observances are lost in the mists of antiquity and scholars differ as to their historical genesis and their spiritual meaning. For the liturgy is not to be pictured as a mathematical table. like a table of natural sines and cosines, calculated once for all time. It is a living thing. the slow evolution of nineteen hundred years, gradually developing in accord with its varving environ-The liturgy does not rement. semble a geometrical figure whose members show exact proportions. but rather a tree whose branches are symmetrical without being mathematically balanced. A new house will show a well-defined plan. an harmonious grouping of its rooms. up-to-date conveniences. useful arrangements, which are the resultant of years of experiment. But an old mansion will not display

such order. It will show additions and destructions. There will be floors on different levels and windows and doors walled up or no longer used. There will be rambling passages to connect old parts with new and modern appliances tacked on out of harmony with the original plan. Just such an old mansion is the liturgy of the Church. Portions of it are as ancient as Christianity. Wings have been added in the course of centuries. Old sections have been renovated or torn down. No new parts have been built for ages though there are constant minor alterations, represented, for instance, by new Masses in the Missal and new offices in the Breviary as new saints are added to the calendar of the canonized servants of God. In the talks which are to follow, we shall inspect briefly some of the principal halls of this venerable castle. Its corner-stone was laid by Jesus Christ Himself. Its foundations were dug by His Apostles. Its ground-plan was designed by the early Christians before they emerged from the Catacombs. Its main portion dates from the late Roman Empire. Its walls

are draped with ivy of medieval growth. "No jutty, frieze, buttress, nor coign of vantage" but is eloquent with symbolic meaning. Such is the castle, centuries old even when Columbus sailed across the Atlantic, raised by Popes and Patriarchs and Bishops, as the imposing structure of the liturgy of the Church.

#### CATHOLIC HOUR PRAYER IN TIME OF WAR

#### (Adapted from Cardinal Newman)

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who in Thy mercy hearest the prayers of sinners, pour forth, we beseech Thee, all grace and blessing upon our country and its citizens. We pray in particular for the Presidentfor our Congress-for all our soldiers-for all who defend us in ships, whether on the seas or in the skies-for all who are suffering the hardships of war. We pray for all who are in peril or in danger. Bring us all after the troubles of this life into the haven of peace, and reunite us all together forever. O dear Lord, in Thy glorious heavenly kingdom.

7

#### THE SUPREME ACT OF THE LITURGY

Address delivered on June 14, 1942

In the happy times before *pan*- eve of faith. It is no unusual perzer units ploughed the ground and formance, restricted to ten-vear the Luftwaffe darkened the air. intervals. but part of the Cathotens of thousands used to journey lic's ordinary religious experience. from all guarters of the globe. Yet it exceeds the Passion Play of every ten years, to the little town Oberammergau as the substance of Oberammergau, in Bavaria, to does its shadow, as the reality does witness the production of the Pas- its representation. sion Play. The Passion Play is a dramatic in its form, is the real pictorial representation of the life Passion Play, the authentic Pasand especially of the passion and sion Play, as commanded by our death of our Lord. It is produced Lord Himself when He said at the with religious fervor by its actors. Last Supper, after He had consethe men and women and children crated the bread and the wine inof Oberammergau, and few are the to His Body and Blood, "Do this spectators who are not thrilled by for a commemoration its scenes. Yet, after all, the Pas- (Luke sion Play is only a play, only a could write to his converts at Cortheatrical representation of what inth: "As often as you shall eat it commemorates. But there is a this bread, and drink the chalice, memorial of the passion and death you shall shew the death of the of Jesus Christ which is something more than a play, which is the official commemoration of the events of the original Holy Thursday and Good Friday, official because commanded by Him who suffered the cruel passion and died the ignominious death. It is no mere play. depending for its effect largely upon acting and stagecraft and the unusual time and place of its production. Its appeal is solely to the

The Mass. me" of 22:19), so that St. Paul Lord, until he come" (I Cor. 11: 25). Every time that Mass is celebrated in imitation of the example and in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ, so often is appreciative commemoration made of the passion and death of our Lord precisely as He Himself wished such commemoration be that made.

To a non-Catholic attending Mass for the first time it must seem a bewildering succession of priest at the foot of the altar, and involved ceremonies. It will be dif- the later ones which are known as ficult to convey a clear picture of the collects. There are hymns, like the Mass to those listeners in our the Introit, or entrance anthem, radio audience who are unfamiliar and the Gloria in excelsis Deo. with its intricate ritual. Yet to "Glory be to God in the highest," the well-instructed this supreme which is a development of the act of the Catholic liturgy has a hymn sung by the angels at the logical sequence of prayers and birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The ceremonies and a convincing rea- selections from Scripture, in the son for everything that is said first half of the Mass, are chiefly and done.

parts, a preparatory portion and concludes with the recitation of the the Mass proper. In this latter, Creed. our Lord's command is fulfilled to When we come to the second half repeat what He did at the Last of the Mass, the Mass proper, its Supper. Christ took bread and three salient divisions-Offertory, wine and so the priest takes bread Consecration, and Communion-are and wine, and offers them to God. elaborations of the order followed This is called the Offertory. Our by Jesus Christ at the first of all Lord consecrated the bread and Masses at the Last Supper. During wine into His Body and Blood and the Offertory section, the bread is so in Mass we have the Consecra- offered to God, wine and water are tion of the bread and wine by the poured into the chalice and it too priest. Christ gave to His Apos- is offered. There is a ceremonial tles to eat and to drink of the con- washing of the priest's hands. The secrated bread and wine, whence people are invited to join their we have the distribution of Holy prayers to those of the celebrant Communion. Offertory, Consecra- as he turns to them with the tion, and Communion make up the words, Orate fratres: "Pray, brethsecond and more solemn half of ren, that your sacrifice and mine the Mass.

of prayers and hymns and selec- tion of the Mass concludes with tions from Holy Scripture. There prayers which beg for the divine are prayers, like the introductory acceptance of the sacrifice which ones which are recited by the is about to be offered.

the Epistle and the Gospel. This The Mass is divided into two preparatory portion of the Mass

may be acceptable in the eyes of The preparatory half is made up the Almighty." The offertory sec-

9

Passing to the Consecration sec- The priest then receives Holy tion, which is the very solemn Communion both under the form of part of the Mass, we begin with bread and under that of wine, but an introductory prayer, appropri- Holy Communion is distributed to ately called the Preface, which con- the congregation only under the cludes with the triple Sanctus, form of bread. The people, how-"Holy, Holy, Holy." There follow ever, in receiving only the Host, prayers for the living and prayers do not receive less of the Body and asking the intercession of the Blood of Christ than does the saints and begging for God's ac- priest. The Host, indeed, is deceptance of the Mass. This leads finitely consecrated into Christ's to the dramatic moment of the Body; but where that Body is we Consecration itself where, in obedi- have also His Blood and His soul ence to the command of Christ and and His Divinity and all that is in virtue of the power conveyed in Christ's. ordination to priests, the bread and with a brief service of thanksgivwine become the Body and Blood ing, ending with a final blessing of Jesus Christ. First the conse- and the Last Gospel, which is uscrated Host, and then the chalice, ually the beginning of St. John's is raised to be seen and venerated Gospel. by all present. A series of three Such is, in very summary outprayers leads to the memento for line, the Catholic Mass of today, the dead who are to be mentioned the liturgical Passion Play, which in the Mass. Another intercession is the dramatic fulfillment of the of saints and the Canon, as this divine precept to renew the Last Consecration section of the Mass Supper, "Do this for a commemoris termed, is over.

Father," is now said and the Com- orial of the death of the Lord, in munion section of the Mass begins. the already-quoted words of St. The particle of consecrated bread, Paul: "As often as you shall eat called the Host, is divided into this bread, and drink the chalice, three pieces, as our Lord broke you shall shew the death of the the bread at the Last Supper. Lord, until he come" (I Cor. 11: Thrice we call upon the Lamb of 26). This brief synopsis has per-God, the Agnus Dei, beseeching His haps been rather confusing to those divine mercy and begging for that of our listeners to whom the order peace which the world cannot give. of the Mass is not matter of com-

The Mass concludes

ation of me" (Luke 22:19). This The Pater Noster, the "Our is the Mass, the permanent memCatholics who are accustomed to very early origin and some of them follow the rapid tempo of its ela- are taken verbatim from our earborate ritual with the prayerbook liest service books. The Scripture before them. So, let us repeat, the readings, the Epistle and the Gos-Mass consists of two parts, an in- pel, are naturally the most ancient troductory half, made up of pray- portions of the Mass, going back ers and hymns and Scripture selec- to Apostolic times. Passing to the tions, and a second half, which is second half of the Mass, the mula development of the three chief tiplied rites and prayers incident actions performed by Jesus Christ to the Offertory are largely medieat the Last Supper, represented by val elaborations of the primitive our Offertory, Consecration, and simple ceremony of taking the Communion. The whole concludes bread and wine and setting them with a short service of thanksgiv- apart for consecration. The Caning.

the preparatory half of the Mass sents our oldest text, found word and the elaboration of the funda- for word as it is recited today, mental liturgy of the Last Supper in the most ancient of our Massinto the complex ceremonial and books, the multiplied prayers of the sec- Communion of the people in early ond half of the Mass, form the in- times soon became a long and comteresting subject of the history of plicated ceremony, especially durliturgy. Not all portions of our ing those centuries when every Mass are of equal antiquity for member of the congregation rethey are the resultant of the slow ceived Holy Communion, communiand not always symmetrical growth cated under both forms, of bread For of centuries. prayers at the foot of the altar, portion of the Host broken off from with which Mass begins, are the another Host, in literal imitation most recent addition to its text, as of the action at the Last Supper they have been of obligation only where our Lord broke the bread since 1570. other hand, originally a proces- Communion. The Last Gospel is, sional hymn, a psalm chanted as like the introductory prayers, anthe officiants entered the church, other late addition to the Mass dates from the fifth century. The since it, too, did not become of

mon experience, or even to those prayers known as collects are of on, from its Preface to the Pater The evolution of the elements of Noster-the "Our Father"-repreor Sacramentaries. The example, the and wine, and always received a The Introit, on the to give to the Apostles in Holy obligation until 1570, with the bolically given to God by being publication of the standard Missal slain, its blood sprinkled on the of Pope Pius V. Thus the Mass altar, which represented Divinity, begins and ends with its most while portions would be burnt on modern additions.

considered simply as a series of These sacrifices of the Old Law prayers and ceremonies, some of passed into desuetude because they them sanctified as of divine ori- were replaced by the one great gin, some of Scriptural warrant, sacrifice of the New Law, that ofand all sacred with the tradition fered by Jesus Christ, when as of centuries, for the Mass is that both priest and victim, He was supreme act of divine worship crucified on Mount Calvary, the alwhich is called a sacrifice. Time tar being the frame of the Cross does not permit nor does the pur- and the sacrificial change of the pose of these addresses require that victim nothing less than the death we attempt an elaborate explana- of the God-made-man. The cruel tion of the notion of sacrifice or and bloody sacrifice which was ofenter into the intricate theological fered by Christ when He died on question of the realization of the Golgotha was in prospect at the idea of sacrifice in the celebration Last Supper when our Lord offered of Mass. Suffice it to say that the sacrifice in the consecration of the accepted definition of sacrifice is bread and the wine, as it is in that it means the official offering retrospect when the same Savior. to God, and to Him alone, of some acting through His human priest, tangible object by destroying or changing it in some way as a symbol of the worship due to God, thus presenting it to Him in recognition of His ownership of all things of His creation. The definition is best understood by considering sacrifice under the Old Testament. An ancient Hebrew would pay his sacrificial worship to God by presenting in the temple an animal, such as a sheep or a goat, of his flock. The victim would be sym-

the altar or roasted to be eaten The Mass, however, must not be by the offerers of the sacrifice. at every Mass which is celebrated. again changes bread into the Body which was delivered for us and wine into the Blood which was shed for us. The Mass, as was the Last Supper, is Calvary in a painless and bloodless sacrifice, divested of the horrors of Good Friday. Only the mystic nails of consecration are driven into the Body of Christ, and the Blood which covered the dying Saviour on the mentally flows at the Mass in the bolizing the actual separation of dramatic separate consecration of the Body and Blood of Christ in bread and wine. At the Last Sup- His death on the Cross. When, per our Lord said "This is my therefore, we Catholics assemble body, which is given for you" and in the church to hear Mass, we "This is the chalice, the new tes- come not only to participate in a tament in my blood, which shall be religious function of historic antished for you" (Luke 22:19, 20), quity and of dramatic significance, and His omnipotent power effected but to take part in the offering of that which His words expressed, a sacrifice, the supreme act of re-So also the priest at Mass, in compliance with Christ's command. "Do this for a commemoration of the immolation of the most perfect me" (Luke 22:19), changes bread of victims by the High Priest par into the Body given for us and excellence, in both cases, Jesus wine into the Blood shed for us. Christ Himself. the separate consecration of the

Cross only mystically and sacra- two elements sacramentally symligion, one entirely worthy of the Great God to Whom it is offered.

Prayer in Time of War

#### LAY PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

Address delivered on June 21, 1942

present day a liturgical movement, players of the lesser roles, the which has for its object emphasis members of the congregation are on lay participation in the official, not mere audience but actors. public worship of the Church. This though their parts are of a less should not be understood as any- active character. thing revolutionary. It does not The idea of lay participation, as contemplate the destruction of the visioned by promoters of the litursanctuary rail with the consequent gical movement, is one which rests abolition of the distinction between on a firm basis, both theological chancel and nave. It does not aim and historical. In the words of St. at minimizing the separation of Paul\* we are members of the Mysclergy and laify, converting the tical Body, of which Christ is the latter into so many altar-boys and Head, each one of the faithful altar-girls. Its purpose is rather having his association with the Dione of education which should re- vine Head who is the great High sult in the point of view that the Priest. members of the should not consider themselves as tle.\*\* Christ our Lord is the High mere spectators of liturgical func- Priest who alone can pay to God tions but real participants in the the Father, worship which is enconduct of official worship. The tirely worthy of the great God layman is not to take his place Who is adored. Our association in in his pew as one would occupy a the Mystical Body of which Christ seat in a theatre, to look at others the High-Priest is the Head, imworship in his name, but rather as parts to each one of us a sacerdotal an actor in the sacred drama of character. Naturally, this is not to the liturgy, filling a role, however be understood in the sense that inconspicuous, but still a real and there is no essential difference beeven a speaking part. If we may, tween priest and layman. The with due reverence, compare the former is not only one who has Mass to a sacred drama, in which been selected and trained for the Bishops and priests are the protag- \* I Cor. 12:27. onists and the minor clergy and \*\* Hebr. 5:4.

There is in the Church at the the altar-boys and the choristers

congregation In the phrase of the same Apos-

exercise of the functions of the present responded Amen at the liturgy but one who has been en- end of what we should now call dowed by the laving on of hands the Canon of the Mass. When in ordination with powers not communicated to the faithful generally. The sacramental character impressed on the soul in Holv Orders is something quite peculiar to those who are ordained Bishops and priests and lesser ministers in the Church of God. Nevertheless, the sacramental character stamped on the soul in Baptism and that with which it is sealed in Confirmation are to be regarded as giving the individual baptized and confirmed a participation in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, so that each one of the faithful has his share in the exercise of this priesthood when he comes to the church to assist at Mass or other liturgical services.

In centuries past the part played by the congregation was much more conspicuous than it is today and much more active than even the most zealous promotors of the liturgical movement would have revived. In very early times, before there were regularly ordained lectors, or readers, members of the congregation would be designated by the Bishop to read the selections from Holy Scripture at Mass. There was much answering by the faithful. as St. (Second Century) tells how all the regular procedure to an ob-

chanting was to be done, it was originally in the form of congregational singing, until the music became too difficult for those not specially trained to sing it. The Offertory at Mass took the form of a procession of the faithful. bearing gifts to the altar, including the bread and wine to be consecrated at Mass. The Pax, or Kiss of Peace, was exchanged among the members of the congregation as it is to-day by the clergy assisting in the sanctuary at High Mass. Holy Communion was a general communion at every Mass, every member of the congregation receiving, so that attendance at Mass without participation in Holy Communion was a thing unthought of.

Theologically, therefore, and historically, active lay participation in liturgical worship rests on a sound basis. As time went on, various instances of the cooperation of the faithful passed one by one into disuse. Their concerted responses to the pravers became frequent. Congregational less chant became the province of a selected group of choristers. The Justin Martyr offertory procession declined from

servance eight times a year, then As a consequence the Missal for only four times, until it finally dis- the Laity is replacing the beads appeared altogether. The Pax lin- and the "Key of Heaven" in the gered in certain localities and at hands of the faithful, as they aslast became restricted to the sanc- sist at Mass. They learn first to tuary. Holy Communion grew so read the invariable portions of the infrequent that a Council of the Ordinary of the Mass, thus praythirteenth century had to pass a ing the Mass with the priest, rathdecree requiring Holy Communion er than reciting other prayers. at least once a year under pain of however devotional, which have no excommunication. Losing the ex- direct bearing on the function ercise of these active bits of par- which they are attending. The ticipation in the liturgy, the faith- next stage is their progress to a ful lost their appreciation of the Missal in some simplified form theological basis on which they (like that of the leaflets, compiled rested, and the mentality of the to cover the particlar Mass which congregation became that of ob- is being said), or the Sunday Misservers of, rather than participants sal, which avoids most of the comin, the sacred liturgy.

The liturgical movement, therefore, contemplates a campaign of education, destined to awaken in the laity a liturgical sense, by instructing them concerning the Mass and their real share in the offering of it, with the result that they will be able to follow the liturgy with the Missal and, taking a step still further, be able to take part by making the responses at So far, we have only education, Low Mass and joining in the chant the understanding of the Mass and at High Mass. The children in our the ability to follow it. The intelschools, the young people in our ligent reading of the Missal with academies and colleges, and adults the priest is participation of a sort, in study clubs and similar organ- but much more active cooperation izations, are following courses in on the part of the laity is being the public worship of the Church. sought and, to a great extent,

plexities arising from the constant conflict between the ever varying Sundays and the feasts permanently fixed to days of the month. The final step in the educational progress is the use of the Mass-book itself, many of the laity mastering its intricacies so that they use it with a degree of skill which would do credit to seminarians in major orders.

urgical movement. The results only difficulties are the very pracachieved are the Dialogue Mass in the case of Low Mass, and the singing of the official chant at High Mass. The Dialogue Mass may be described as a Low Mass at which the members of the congregation recite in concert the responses usually made by the altar-boy and, in addition, say together certain prayers with the priest, especially those ordinarily sung by the choir at High Mass. It must be admitted that there are objections to the general adoption of this practice. The Church requires for the lawful conduct of the Dialogue Mass that it be permitted by the local Bishop and that the congregation do not recite aloud any portions of the Mass which the priest recites in secret. It would be, obviously, incongruous for the people to declaim the Canon of the Mass. for example, which the rubrics require the celebrant to say in a whisper. On the other hand, there is nothing indecorous in concerted answering by the congregation of the responses usually made in its name by the server, nor in the recitation aloud by priest and people together of certain portions, like those which are sung by the choir at High Mass.

found, by the promotors of the lit- lay participation in High Mass, the tical ones incident to congregational singing. Much is being done in this connection with the children of our schools whose training is widespread in the execution of plain chant and of the easier liturgical Masses, especially when sung in unison. At High Mass, no congregation can be so ungifted musically as to be unable to manage the choral responses, Amen. Et cum spiritu tuo, Deo gratias, and the others. Not a high degree of skill should be required to equip the congregation to sing the invariable chants of the Mass, along with, or alternately with, the choir. The specially trained choristers would continue to chant the variable parts of the Mass, as well as its more elaborate chants. So whether at Low Mass or at High Mass, the attendants are no longer silent passive spectators, but vocal, active participants in the liturgical homage paid to the Most High jointly by His priest at the altar and the non-ordained members of the Mystical Body of Christ in the congregation, all actively united in communal worship.

In these days of frequent Holy Communion, only passing reference need be made to that most active When we come to consider the and conspicuous participation of

represented by the reception of indispensable element in the assist-Holy Communion at Mass. Empha- ance of the early Christians at sis, however, should be placed on Mass. It remained for later times the propriety of receiving Holy to conceive of attendance at Mass Communion during Mass, at the without reception of Holy Comproper time, after the Communion munion. Even now, with our freof the priest, as the chief feature quent and daily Communion, there of lay association with the Holy is not sufficiently inculcated the Sacrifice. Hence Communion out- idea of the reception of Holy Comside of Mass, or immediately be- munion as an active participation fore or immediately after Mass, in the Sacrifice of the Mass, not should be the exception rather than to be lightly divorced from it by the rule. Holy Communion is the the distribution of Holy Communhighest and most intimate form of ion at times other than that immecooperation of the faithful at Mass. diately following the Communion The Mass is a sacrifice which re- of the celebrant. sults in a Sacrament. The priest alone can offer the sacrifice but priest and people together participate in the Sacrament, which is effected by the sacerdotal action of the consecrating priest. This Holy Sacrament is an integral part of the Sacrifice. The people are not co-consecrators with the celebrating priest but they are co-participants in the Eucharistic Sacrifice by the reception of Holy Communion along with the priest. The lay cooperation here is as active as was that of the Apostles at the first of all Masses, offered by the great High Priest Himself at the Last Supper in the upper chamber in Jerusalem. In the primitive Church, general Communion of the lowing them, within proper limits.

the laity in the liturgy, which is faithful was the rule. It was an

The liturgical movement offers to the laity these forms of participation in the sacred liturgy as a privilege, which all may enjoy but which none are obliged to exercise. There are those who are content with things as they are, who would be only disturbed by forms of active participation as a substitute for the private prayers to which they have been long accustomed. There are many others, however. who feel that under the old conditions they received only a fraction of the benefit which they should derive from attendance at the supreme act of Christian worship. Teaching the people to follow the Mass intelligently, Missal in hand; allogue Low Mass and the congregationally-sung High Mass; emphasizing the intimate connection between assistance at Mass and the reception of Holy Communionhere we have a three-fold system of lay cooperation-positive, comparative, and superlative-quite in accord with present ecclesiastical law, involving no radical changes,

the manual blan states of the

the active participation of the Dia- but nevertheless bringing to the man in the pew a realization of his active association with the priest at the altar, in accord with the prayer of the celebrant at the Orate fratres: "Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable in the sight of God, the Father Almighty."

Prayer in Time of War

#### ORIENTAL RITES IN THE LITURGY

Address delivered on June 28, 1942

In the Catholic Hour for the Protestant Churches of Western past three Sundays, we have been Christianity. studying the liturgy of the Church in the familiar form in which Catholics see it carried out Sunday after Sunday. When we learn in Catholic quiz programmes of the "Believe it or not" variety, that the Mass is celebrated not only in Latin but in nine or ten other different languages, we must not picture the Mass to which we are accustomed, merely celebrated in a tongue other than Latin. Not only is the language different, but the entire rite-the ceremonial, the vestments, the prayers-is different. While the liturgy of the Church throughout the world is very predominantly the Latin rite of familiar religious experience, there are other rites in the Church. There is what is loosely termed the Greek rite. There are the Armenian Rite, the Syriac Rite, and the Chaldean Rite, to mention only a few. All those who practice these rites profess the same faith and acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Pope; that is, all those among the Catholics of the Near East. who are called Uniates, united with Rome-for there are also the socalled Orthodox Eastern Churches. as disunited from Rome as are the

How this came about historically may be stated thus: There was originally some very simple ceremony employed for the celebration of Mass. This rite crystallized into various forms according to the local conditions where it was practiced. Some features were elaborated in one place and not developed in others. Slight re-arrangements of the original order were made, prayers lengthy or abbreviated varied in different parts of Christendom. The development of the rather vague primitive rite centered about the three great patriarchates, Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch, which became the parent stems of many branches of liturgical worship. Out of Antioch grew the Patriarchate of Constantinople when that city became the seat of the Roman Emperor, and from Constantinople arose the mostwidely practiced of Eastern Liturgies. The heresies of the fifth century lost to the Church many Christians in Asia Minor and Egypt, in Syria and modern Iraq. who carried their liturgy with them into heresy. In the ninth century, when the great Church of Constantinople severed its bonds with Rome-and with it the bulk of Christians of the Eastern Empire -the Byzantine Liturgy became a schismatic form of worship. In the Near East, both in the fourth century and the ninth century, some remained faithful to the Pope; and since then many have been received into unity with the Holy See. It is these who are called the Uniate Eastern Catholics. united with Rome in the profession of the same faith but allowed to retain all their ancient customs as to worship, prayers, and ceremonial, liturgical language and ecclesiastical music. These Uniates are all Catholics, as much so as the members of the Church in Rome or New York, but they follow a different ritual and use a different language at the altar. Basically the liturgy is the same. The essential elements are identical in the Roman Rite and in any one of the Eastern rites. But externally they look very different and a Catholic of the Latin rite would have difficulty in following the service in a Uniate Catholic Church. This may be compared to that which is inaccurately found in the style of musical composition known as a theme and variations. Here a musical phrase groups who use the rite attributed is stated and then subjected to a to St. John Chrysostom, who was number of transpositions and em- Bishop of Constantinople in the broideries, appearing now in slow fourth century. This rite is not al-

and now in rapid tempo, now in animated form and now in mournful guise, now in the austere natural scale and now in colorful chromatics. For the novice in music, it is often hard to recognize the original theme as it passes through successive variations. It is only the trained musician who can discern it by certain cadences, certain patterns in the phrases, no matter how elaborately it is involved in the development. Just so, there is a fundamental theme in the Mass. an inevitable pattern of introductory service and Mass proper, an essential sequence of Offertory, Consecration, and Communion. which remain constant through all the variations of rites. Latin and Eastern. Greek and Armenian. Coptic and Syrian.

Now, who are these Uniate Catholics of the Eastern rites? It is beyond the purpose of these talks to go into the detailed divisions and complex subdivisions of these bodies of Catholics of the Near East. Best known and most numerous in Christendom, as well as difficulty in the United States, is what is called the Greek Church. Bv the Uniate Greek Church we mean those Catholic

in this country it is only excep- fact that all Maronites are Uniates, tionally so, for here the more us- there being none who are schismaual langauge is the ancient Slav- tics, none who are not in communonic. Retaining, for convenience, ion with Rome. Churches of both the unscientific name of Greek these rites are to be found in this Church for the various Catholics of country, though they are much this rite, we may say that it em- fewer in number than those of braces the Ruthenians of the Uni- the Ruthenians. Again, there is ted States, who number over half the ancient church of Egypt, dea million, and are governed by two veloped under the aegis of the Pa-Bishops. The liturgical language triarch of Alexandria, known as is archaic Slavonic and the ritual the Coptic Church, most of whose is that of the Greek rite, the same members are not in communion as that of the orthodox Greek with Rome but of whom there is Church of Constantinople and Ath- a small body of Uniates. We may ens, and of the national church of mention here also the church of Russia under the Czars. The obe- Ethiopia or Abyssinia, in which dience however is that of submis- the Uniate percentage is a mere sion to the See of Rome. Next, we trace. Lastly, reference should be have the Armenian Uniates, Catho- made to the Chaldean Catholics, of lics originally, from the district ancient Mesopotamia. This very between the Black Sea and the summary and perhaps confusing Caspian, following a rite really not classification of Catholics of nonvery different from the Greek lit- Roman rites, whose members acurgy, since both grew up under knowledge the authority of Rome the patriarchate of Antioch; but -the Greek Church and the Artheir language is Armenian. The menian Uniates, the Syrians and adherents of this rite in the Uni- the Maronites, the Coptics and the ted States are much less numerous Chaldeans-while by no means exthan those of the Ruthenian Greek haustive, will suffice to give us a Church and they have not the ec- picture of Catholics practicing clesiastical organization of the lat- forms of liturgy basically identical ter. A third group of Eastern with our own, but peculiar in their Catholics is represented by the Sy- varying vestments, the texts of rians, another flowering of the Pa- their prayers, their ceremonial, and triarchate of Antioch, and a fourth their language. is the Maronite Church, of the If we may select certain charac-

ways celebrated in Greek; indeed, same origin, distinguished by the

teristics which in general distinguish Eastern liturgies from the that plaintive character and that Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic abundance of cadenzas which we Church, we should mention, first associate with Oriental music, as of all, the length of the prayers. The Oriental rites know no such straint of our Gregorian chant. streamlined services as allow Mass There are two very dramatic moevery hour on the hour in our city ments in the Oriental Mass: the churches. Secondly, there is great- Little Entrance and the Great Ener elaboration of ritual than in our trance. The former is the procesrite. The Roman Mass to an Orien- sion in which the Book of Gospels tal seems austere and Church." There are more multi- being placed on the altar, previous plied signs of the cross, more re- to the chanting of the lessons from peated bows and though generally no bending of an even more elaborate procession, the knee, more complex gestures of which escorts the sacred elements all kinds, much freer use of in- for consecration, the bread carried cense, and a much more detailed by the deacon and the chalice by technique in preparing and hand- the celebrant, accompanied by inling the bread and wine destined cense and lights and ceremonial for consecration. The vestments fans, proceeding from the altar at are more gorgeous and less form- the left to the high altar at which fitting. The arrrangements of sanc- the Mass is being celebrated. On tuary and altar, though differing the other hand, the consecration itfrom ours more in design than in self is not nearly so dramatic as essence, departs from that with with us. It might well pass unwhich we are familiar. Ordinary noticed by the uninstructed observleavened bread and not the unleav- er, while in the Latin Mass. the ened bread of our use is as a rule silence, the tinkling bell, and the the material for consecration in the elevation of the Host and chalice Eastern Church. The bread is cut would impress the most casual atinto little cubes for Holy Com- tendant that something of great munion. The laity receive both un- importance is transpiring. der the form of bread and under the form of wine, in some cases by icant features of Oriental rites dipping the Host in the chalice, as must not convey the impression with the Greeks.

The chant of the liturgy has distinguished from the greater re-"Low is carried about the church before inclinations, Sacred Scripture. The second is

This generalization of the signifthat they are all very similar one distinctive characteristics. Maronite rite, for instance, has kingdom of God on earth. We are been very much Romanized and all paying to God the homage of appears much more like our litur- worship, of official, liturgical worgy than it really is. On the other ship, differing in expression but hand, the coptic Liturgy, though agreeing in essence. The hands exhibiting most of the features may be the hands of Esau but the which we have named as peculiar to Eastern rites, would seem to us the most unusual, the most Orien-The various Uniate tal, of all. Churches are not in communion with one another but they are all in communion, as we are, with the Pope as the visible head of the Church, Eastern and Western, on earth. All are branches joined to the main stem, which is Rome. They are living branches drawing their life by real visible communion from the parent stem and so from Christ Himself. We must not think of Oriental Christians as less Catholic than ourselves. They are children of the great Patriarchates of Antioch and of Alexandria, as we are children of the Patriarchate of Rome, though this last has the pirmacy of jurisdiction over all other patriarchates. Their rites and their ceremonies, their language and their customs. have all the same sanctity of age-

to the other, for each one has its old use as our own. We are all The fellow-citizens of the one great voice is always the voice of Jacob.

> Liturgy has been defined as the official public worship of the Church. This worship is no less official, no less liturgical, when conducted according to the rite of the Greek Church or the Armenian Church, when carried out according to the ritual of Alexandria or Antioch, in Greek or in Slavonic, in Coptic or Syriac, than when it is carried out in accordance with the ceremonial of the Church of Rome and in the Latin language. A11 Catholics, Roman and Uniate, professing the one faith, in obedience to the one Bishop of Rome, give voice to their official worship, each group in its own traditional form. Distinct as the fingers in the variety of their liturgies, they are united as the hand in the one faith. of which each liturgy is an official expression.

Prayer in Time of War

#### THE PURPOSE OF THE CATHOLIC HOUR

(Extract from the address of the late Patrick Cardinal Hayes at the inaugural program of the Catholic Hour in the studio of the National Broadcasting Company, New York City, March 2, 1930.)

Our congratulations and our gratitude are extended to the National Council of Catholic Men and its officials, and to all who, by their financial support, have made it possible to use this offer of the National Broadcasting Company. The heavy expense of managing and financing a weekly program, its musical numbers, its speakers, the subsequent answering of inquiries, must be met...

This radio hour is for all the people of the United States. To our fellow-citizens, in this word of dedication, we wish to express a cordial greeting and, indeed, congratulations. For this radio hour is one of service to America, which certainly will listen in interestedly, and even sympathetically, I am sure, to the voice of the ancient Church with its historic background of all the centuries of the Christian era, and with its own notable contribution to the discovery, exploration, foundation and growth of our glorious country. . .

Thus to voice before a vast public the Catholic Church is no light task. Our prayers will be with those who have that task in hand. We feel certain that it will have both the good will and the good wishes of the great majority of our countrymen. Surely, there is no true lover of our Country who does not eagerly hope for a less worldly, a less material, and a more spiritual standard among our people.

With good will, with kindness and with Christ-like sympathy for all, this work is inaugurated. So may it continue. So may it be fulfilled. This word of dedication voices, therefore, the hope that this radio hour may serve to make known, to explain with the charity of Christ, our faith, which we love even as we love Christ Himself. May it serve to make better understood that faith as it really is—a light revealing the pathway to heaven: 'a strength, and a power divine through Christ; pardoning our sins, elevating, consecrating our common every-day duties and joys, bringing not only justice but gladness and peace to our searching and questioning hearts.

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