

Liturgy Lessons: 2018



episode #5: "Processions"

Summary

A procession is an assembly on the move. It symbolizes, in every instance, our pilgrimage through this world to our true homeland; we are citizens of heaven.

There is a difference between "gathering" and "assembly." A gathering can be any group. An assembly, on the other hand, is a group called together, formed into a body, united in their purpose and in their destination.

There are four processions in the Mass: the Entrance, Gospel, Offertory and Communion processions. They symbolize the constant journey deeper and deeper into the mystery of God.

"...Romano Guardini (a 20th century theologian) writes that modern man needs to relearn the profound importance of gestures. The sign of the cross made with blessed water is more often than not a purely mechanical gesture. Perhaps an even more mechanical act is to 'enter the church'. And yet how much we miss, through lack of attention, in the apparently insignificant acts of 'crossing the threshold' and 'going through the door', for what is involved is the mystery of 'passage'.

IN THE TRADITION

The LORD said to Abram: Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. Genesis 12:1

"[Christians] live each in his native land but as though they were not really at home there [as sojourners]. They share in all duties as citizens and suffer all hardships as strangers. Every foreign country is a fatherland to them, and every fatherland a foreign land ... They dwell on earth but they are citizens of heaven"
Letter to Diognetus

THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

+ "Besides sacramental liturgy and sacramentals, catechesis must take into account the forms of piety and popular devotions among the faithful. The religious sense of the Christian people has always found expression in various forms of piety surrounding the Church's sacramental life, such as the veneration of relics, visits to sanctuaries, pilgrimages, processions, the stations of the cross, religious dances, the rosary, medals, etc."
Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), n.1674

FOR YOUR REFLECTION

Christians, like ancient Israel, journey not as individuals, but as a people. What other similarities characterize this pilgrimage?

Today's Liturgy Lesson is one part of a thirty three part package intended to help us understand and embrace our experience of the Sunday Mass. Past lessons will be available upon request.

Elements of the Catholic Mass: Study Guide @ 2015 Rev. Douglas Martis. Permission granted for educational purposes only. You may review this video lesson by visiting their website and viewing the intended episode @ www.elementsofthecatholicmass.com.