



# ARTICLE 8

## GATHER PART 3

JULY 2022 • SAINT PATRICK CHURCH, CARLISLE PA • FATHER DON

I truly love being Catholic. And I really do not like putting a label on it, it is just Catholic. We do love putting labels on things. Traditional, charismatic, liberal, conservative, contemporary are all labels we like to attach to the word Catholic. To be honest, I just love the things that make me Catholic. The prayers, sacramentals, icons, bells, incense, chants, Latin, all kinds of vestments, stained glass, marble, sacred vessels, I could go on and on. This article is about one part of the faith that I love and is a part of our worship. It is the use of the Latin Mass parts. Since before I was here, we have been using the Agnus Dei for the English, Lamb of God. When I got here as pastor, we introduced the Latin form of the Holy, Holy, Holy. It is called the Sanctus. Why all the Latin? Am I trying to take us back to the 1940's? No, again I just like things that remind us that we are a Latin Rite faith, and the Mass parts do that. I know some are thinking, didn't Vatican II change all that? It did not. Paragraph 36 says that "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin Rites". Come on, I know that the documents of Vatican II got rid of the Latin for your mother tongue. It does say in paragraph 54: "In Masses which are celebrated with the people, a suitable place may be allotted to their mother tongue. This is to apply in the first place to the readings and the "common prayers," but also, as local conditions may warrant, to those parts which pertain to the people. Nevertheless, steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them. "In more common language, yes, we can say the Mass in English and yes, we can say parts of it in Latin. These parts would be the Gloria, the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Mystery of Faith, the Our Father and the Lamb of God.

All these parts according to Vatican II could still be said in Latin to preserve the idea that we are a Latin Rite Church. The solemn atmosphere it helps to create, helps to remind us that this

space is different from a social hall or gym. Why is it different, it is different because of what happens here. This is the place where heaven meets earth, where we come to thank God for all that he has done in our lives. As much as I want us to keep moving forward as a parish family, I do not want to lose what makes us unique and Catholic. The Church asks us to see this as part of who we are: "the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites." May we find ways to continue to grow as a family and preserve what makes us Catholic!

**Quote: The Latin language is assuredly worthy of being defended with great care instead of being scorned; for the Latin Church it is the most abundant source of Christian civilization and the richest treasury of piety.... We must not hold in low esteem these traditions of your fathers, which were your glory for centuries.**

Pope Paul VI, *Sacrificium Laudis*, August 15, 1966, Epistle to Superiors General of Clerical Religious Institutes Bound to Choir, on the Celebration of the Divine Office in Latin

### Points to Ponder

- How do you try to make your time at Mass solemn?
- Do you listen to the words of Mass to help enter into a Holy Place?
- Are you really singing at Mass to be fully participating?

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