

# Session 5 – The Liturgy

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

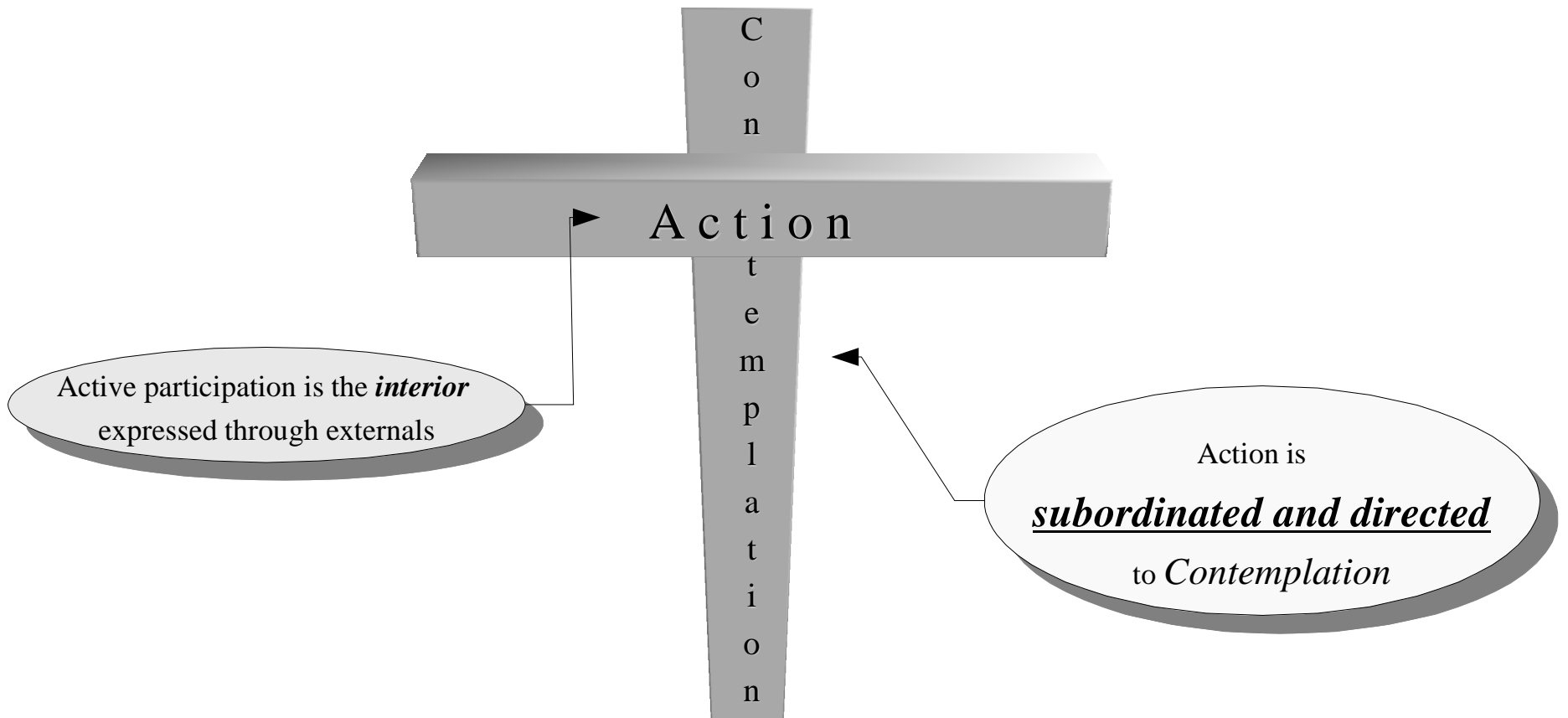
*Liturgy is Human and Divine*

- “It is of the essence of the Church that she be both human and divine, visible and yet invisibly equipped, eager to act and yet intent on contemplation, present in this world and yet not at home in it; and she is all these things in such wise that *in her the human is directed and subordinated to the divine, the visible likewise to the invisible, action to contemplation, and this present world to that city yet to come, [...]*”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §2*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Liturgy is Human and Divine*



# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Liturgy needs faith and conversion*

- Before men can come to the liturgy they must be called to faith and to conversion [...] Therefore the Church announces the good tidings of salvation to those who do not believe, so that all men may know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §9*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Liturgy needs faith and conversion*

- The spiritual life, however, is not limited solely to participation in the liturgy. The Christian is indeed called to pray with his brethren, but he must also enter into his chamber to pray to the Father, in secret; yet more, according to the teaching of the Apostle, he should pray without ceasing

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §12*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Liturgy is not a matter of personal taste*

- Therefore no other person, even if he be a priest, may add, remove, or change anything in the liturgy on his own authority.

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §22*

- Liturgical services are not private functions, but are celebrations of the Church, which is the "sacrament of unity," namely, the holy people united and ordered under their bishops  
[...]Therefore liturgical services pertain to the whole body of the Church

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Liturgy is not a matter of personal taste, but it is not rigid*

- Even in the liturgy, the Church *has no wish to impose a rigid uniformity in matters which do not implicate the faith or the good of the whole community*; rather does she respect and foster the genius and talents of the various races and peoples. Anything in these peoples' way of life which is not indissolubly bound up with superstition and error she studies with sympathy and, if possible, preserves intact.

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §37*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Latin in the liturgy?*

- 1. Particular law remaining in force, the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites.
- 2. But since the use of the mother tongue, whether in the Mass, the administration of the sacraments, or other parts of the liturgy, frequently may be of great advantage to the people, the limits of its employment may be extended. This will apply in the first place to the readings and directives, and to some of the prayers and chants, according to the regulations on this matter to be laid down separately in subsequent chapters.

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §36*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

*Latin in the liturgy?*

- “Nevertheless steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them.”

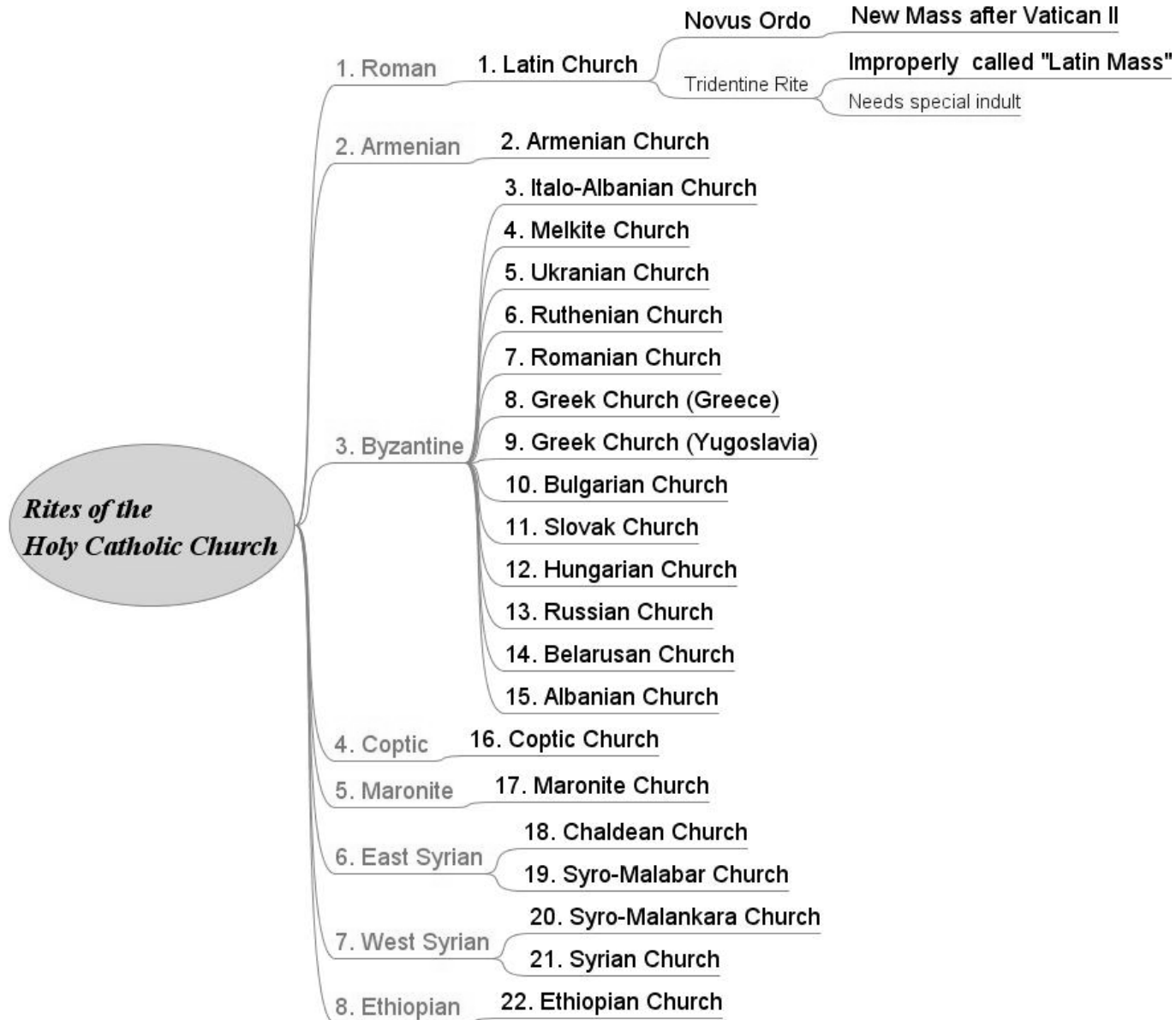
*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §54*

- “[...]that holy Mother Church holds all lawfully acknowledged rites to be of equal right and dignity”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §4*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Rites of the Catholic Church*



# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Meat on Fridays?*

- “[...] the Church announces the good tidings of salvation to those who do not believe, so that all men may know the true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, and may be converted from their ways, doing penance. To believers also the Church must ever preach faith and penance, she must prepare them for the sacraments, teach them to observe all that Christ has commanded...”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §9*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Meat on Fridays?*

- “[...] the Church completes the formation of the faithful by means of pious practices for soul and body, by instruction, prayer, and works of penance and of mercy.”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §105*

- Can. 1249 All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance.

Can. 1251 Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

*1983 Code of Canon Law*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Meat on Fridays?*

- Can. 1252 The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that *even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.*

Can. 1253 The Episcopal Conference can determine more particular ways in which fasting and abstinence are to be observed. *In place of abstinence or fasting it can substitute,* in whole or in part, other forms of penance, *especially works of charity and exercises of piety.*

*1983 Code of Canon Law*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Sacred Music*

- “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as sacred song united to the words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy.”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §112*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Sacred Music*

- “The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant as specially suited to the Roman liturgy: therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services.

But other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded from liturgical celebrations, so long as they accord with the spirit of the liturgical action, as laid down in Art. 30.”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §116*

- “In the Latin Church the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man's mind to God and to higher things.”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §120*

# Sacrosanctum Concilium

## *Relics and Statues?*

- “The saints have been traditionally honored in the Church and *their authentic relics and images held in veneration*. For the *feasts of the saints* *proclaim the wonderful works of Christ* in His servants, and display to the faithful fitting examples for their imitation.”

*Sacrosanctum Concilium, §111*

# Reminders

- Read Apostolicam Actuositatem Chapters I-III
- Documents can be found at  
[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/)
- We will have a make-up class on Monday 25  
10:00am
- Audio and handouts: [www.newsfromgod.com](http://www.newsfromgod.com)