

## **HOLY MASS: a Show or SACRIFICE?**

### **KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES**

There are many and different reasons why a great number of Catholics do not attend Sunday Mass. Here I am talking about before-COVID time.

Some excuses: “The priest preaches too long”; “Mass is boring”; “I don’t get anything out of Mass”; “I rather pray at home”. These are the more common ones, but there are many more.

Some Catholics even sincerely try to suggest ways to make Mass more... “APPEALING AND INTERESTING”, in order to attract more people, especially among the younger generations.

At first, the suggestion seems to be making sense, so much so that even some priests have joined in being creative, and invent ways to add colour to the celebration of Mass. In fact, some thought it would be helpful to add the latest contemporary style of music along with musical instruments used by rock bands, in the hope of attracting a younger audience.

In some churches the sanctuary has even become like a stage, where Mass is being performed by actors who have changed, made additions, and reinvented the sacred liturgy according to their personal tastes. Apparently it was all for the sake of rendering it more modern and “appealing”.

THE TRUTH is that Mass is NOT A SHOW with spectators sitting passively on the pews. One of the reasons behind the absence of Catholics at Mass has been poor catechesis, lack of proper religious formation.

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE to learn that Mass is the SAME SACRIFICE of JESUS on Calvary which is being REPRESENTED on the altar.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE to come to know that the same sacrifice is being offered to God the Father by Jesus for the people of our times.

As the priest stands in the person of Christ on the altar, Jesus repeats for us today to the Father: “FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO!”

We reap the benefits of his blood poured out, so that we are FORGIVEN of our sins, and CLEANSED and PURIFIED!

This is why after Mass, we go home CLEAN, and we are NEW persons, and we can say that WE ARE BORN AGAIN!

BUT..., IS THERE A PART THAT YOU NEED TO PLAY IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE GOING HOME CLEAN, and RENEWED, and LIKE BORN AGAIN?

Definitely YES! We’ll find out next week.