

EPISODE 16 – The Liturgist & Liturgiologist

1. Genuine participation in the Mass provides an opportunity for each to exercise the Christian virtues of patience, humility and charity. For which virtue do you need to pray?
 - I need the grace of God to increase each of these virtues in my life. It has always been this way and most likely will always be so. For I am a sinner who knows well of his shortcomings and failures. Perfection may be my goal but I am far from it.
 - At this time in my life I try to make it to Mass each day. The virtue I need to pray for each day changes as my life changes. However, when I consider each of these three virtues and how my needs have varied over the most recent years, months, and days, I would have to say that I most often need the most help with humility. So it is quite appropriate for me at each Mass to pray for humility. No matter how much success I have had in surrendering my life to Jesus, I know that I still fall short of the goal. This life, this culture, continually calls me to ignore God and put my wants and needs before others. To truly surrender to Jesus is counter cultural. It is a battle and the evil one is ever seeking to lead me astray. So I pray for humility.
2. Why is it important to actually pray at Mass rather than evaluate its performance?
 - Prayer is the way I communicate with my Lord God, my Father in heaven, my Creator, my greatest lover and advocate! So, yes, it is most important to me to pray at Mass where I am taken up to heaven to participate with the angels and the saints to praise, adore, petition, and talk to God.
 - Having said that, I must admit there were years when I was so immersed in the culture and filled with pride that I can say that you could have called me a liturgiologist and been correct. It is only with the grace of God that I learned to recognize the lies of Satan and find my home of love with God. I have always found so much truth in the story of the Prodigal son and as I think about it at this time, I imagine that the son who longed for a return to the love of his father could also be called a liturgiologist.
 - Mass, wherever it is offered, whomever is the celebrant, day or night, inside or out, a few people or a vast crowd, etc., what is most important to me is that this is a time when I can focus on and communicate well with my loving Father. Alleluia!