

EPISODE 17 – Vestments Part 1

1. How do the liturgical vestments worn at Mass help us to recall the vision of heaven in the Eternal Banquet?
 - **Revelation 7:13-14** {13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.}
 - This vision of heaven seems to say it all. To wear white clothes is to have survived the great ordeal which is our pilgrim journey through exile on this earth. To keep our robes (souls) clean we need to wash them white in the blood of the Lamb which is the blood of Christ. As we come to Mass with all the joys and miseries of our lives, the white robes of the priest remind us of our heavenly goal and give us encouragement we need to survive the great ordeal.
2. How can the clothing worn by the laity be an expression of their commitment to the Christian virtues?
 - For all the years of my youth all those I loved and respected in my life would wear their best clothes to Mass. It demonstrated to me just how important this audience with the King of Kings was to them. Somewhere along the way this changed such that many people began to wear what was deemed to be fashionable and acceptable to the culture without any regard to their audience with the King of Kings. I remember doing this myself when I wore shorts in summer and jeans in winter at Sunday Mass. Casual clothing to be sure. In my heart I felt this was wrong but it was what most everyone else was doing. My dad and mom still wore their Sunday best though and this spoke volumes to me about their lifelong commitment to each other and the Christian virtues.
 - Today I choose to attend my audience with the King of Kings by wearing a minimal of what would be defined as business casual clothing to daily Mass while adding a tie and perhaps a coat to that on Sundays. I know that this clothing makes me stand out from the crowd but I am there to visit with my Lord and Savior. Jesus deserves nothing but my best.
3. What does our clothing demonstrate about the value of what we are celebrating?
 - What clothing would I wear if I were to be invited to a meeting with the Pope or any well respected person in the church or the culture? How can I say to Jesus that my meeting with Him at Mass is any less important? My choice of clothing tells others about the value I place in this time with Jesus. It is not the clothing itself, for different cultures and circumstances of life may dictate other choices, but it is my desire to be as well dressed as I can be for my meeting with the King of Kings, my Lord and Savior, that dictates to me what my choice should be for me.