

Catechism on the Liturgy II, 3

Boat, Incense

A small, oblong receptacle, usually in the shape of a small ship, used to hold the incense. The incense is transferred to the thurible by means of a small spoon.

Bow

Originally the gesture of presenting the neck to an oriental potentate, as a sign of supreme submission (thus offering the head to be cut off should the potentate wish it), but used in the liturgy as a great and humble mark of human respect to the Lord, or to a superior.

Bread, Eucharistic

In order for a Mass to be valid, or real, the bread used must be baked from pure wheat meal. To be licit it must be unleavened. It is hard to know what kind of bread our Lord used at the Last Supper, though it was celebrated on the Day of Unleavened Bread (*azymes*), but it could have been leavened if the Pasch was anticipated. Once the bread is consecrated it is called the Host, from the Latin *hostia*, meaning “victim.”

Breviary

Before the 11c, there were a number of books with priests and religious were required to pray, i.e. the Psalter, Lectionary, Martyrology, Homiliary (a collection of sermons from the Fathers), the Antiphony, and the Hymnary, which was all together, called the Divine Office. All these books were combined into one, two, three or four volumes and called the Breviary.

Bugia

A low candlestick consisting of a small plate and socket in which a candle is placed. It has a handle so that it can be easily held out to provide extra light for a bishop when he says Mass. The name comes from Bougie, Algeria, which was

at one time a major source of wax in Europe. The symbolism is stronger here than the practical use; it is clear that the Holy Scriptures can be read only in the light of faith.

Burse

A cloth case used to hold the folded corporal for use at Mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

Calendar, Liturgical

This is a kind of table which divides the lunar or solar year into days, weeks and months of the year, in which the names of the feasts to be celebrated and the saints to be honored are inscribed. The civil calendar of the Romans, called the Julian Calendar, was established in 45 B.C. and remained in use until 1582 when it was replaced by the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian year was 365 days and six hours, so by the time of the Middle Ages the calendar was not synchronous with the seasonal dates, particularly Easter, which is always scheduled for the Sunday following the first full moon of the Vernal Equinox. So in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII reformed the calendar, cancelling ten days from that year (Oct. 5 became Oct. 15) to adjust for all the days which had been added because of the extra six hours per year in the Julian calendar. Pope Gregory also instituted the present system of leap year, and restored New Years Day to January 1st.

Candles

They must be of at least 65% beeswax to be of use at the altar. Worker bees which make the wax are virgins. Bleached wax is used normally, since it stands for the living who are not as they appear. Unbleached wax is used near the casket or catafalque in Masses for the Dead to symbolize that life has changed, not ended – thus the flame which comes

from the two kinds of candles is slightly different. Six candles are used at a high Mass, two for a low Mass, and four for a bishop's low Mass. The low Mass candles are removed for every high Mass. Candles are also used for procession, and for devotions. All these candles are blessed, and are sacramentals.

Canon

This is a Greek word which means "standard" or "rule." So when we say that some books are canonical, we mean that they are accepted as the standard. When we call the great prayer of the Mass the Roman Canon, we refer to the prayer from the Preface to the Doxology, or Minor Elevation. When a man is canonized, his life is to be seen as a standard for holiness.

Capitulum

From the Latin for "little chapter," this refers to a short reading from Scripture read at the end of the Psalms of

a particular hour of the Divine Office. It is also used for an official assembly of religious, since they open their meetings with a short reading from their Rule.

Capsula

From the Latin meaning "little round," it is a round metal receptacle in which is reserved the large Host for Benediction. It is reserved in the tabernacle.

Cassock

A close fitting ankle length garment for priests, but is also used liturgically by the ministers of the altar. Priests wear black, bishop's purple, cardinal's red, and pope's white. The traditional Roman style cassock (buttons up the front) has 33 buttons, one buttoned in thanksgiving for each year of our Lord's life here on earth.