

Catechism on the Liturgy II, 6

Cope

A long cloak opened at the front, but fastened at the breast with a clasp. Originally used as a vestment for the outdoors, it protected other vestments from the weather, and had a large hood. The hood (called a cowl) is gone, and in its place on the back is an ornamental shield. It is used for the Asperges at the High Mass, and also for Benediction or the solemn singing of the Divine Office. The word comes from the Medieval Latin *capa*, meaning cloak

Cornerstone

The first stone placed in the foundation of a church during its construction. It is engraved with the name of the church and the date of the foundation on its surface, and inside the cavity other souvenirs of the time can be placed. It is blessed, and set in place according to the ritual for the dedication of the church. It is symbolic of Christ; the “cornerstone rejected by the builders”.

Corporal

From the Latin meaning “body.” Originally the corporal was a white cloth upon which was set aside some of the bread and wine brought to the Agape Feast, which in the early church was eaten right before Mass. The bread and wine placed on that cloth were used for the Mass. Now the corporal is a square piece of white linen which is folded twice vertically, and twice horizontally, so that there are nine squares, symbolic of the nine choirs of angels. For each Mass, the priest makes his intention to consecrate only the bread and wine which are on the corporal.

Credence Table

A small table on the Epistle Side of the altar upon which are placed the cruets, basin and finger towel for the Mass. In the case of a Solemn High Mass, the veiled chalice and burse are placed on

it.

Credo

Literally from the Latin, “I believe.” In the Mass, it is the opening line of the Nicene Creed.

Crozier

When the Lord sent the messengers of the Gospel out, He told them to take nothing for their journey except a staff as a badge of their vocation; to be pastors of souls and to guide, sustain, correct and lift up the flock. It is pointed at one end to signify that the bishop must fight against the enemies of the flock, and curved at the top for the sheep that have fallen into a pit or the brambles, and need something to grab onto in order to get out.

Cruets

The small glass or metal containers used to bring the water and wine to the celebrant to either mix the chalice or begin the ablutions.

Custom

For a custom to have juridical value, it must last for at least forty years, be reasonable, be accepted by the legislator. The Holy See has reserved to itself all rights in liturgical matters. But the word is also used for non-judicial practices, such as when the faithful stand and sit during the Mass. There are no rubrics or laws about this. But we say it is *customary* for the faithful to stand for the Gospel, or kneel for the Canon.

Custos

From the Latin *custodire*, which means “to guard,” it is a small, round gold and glass case in which the Luna – containing the large consecrated Host for Eucharistic Adoration – is placed and stored in the tabernacle. It is veiled when the Blessed Sacrament is in it.

Dalmatic

The preeminent liturgical garment for a deacon, the Dalmatic looks very similar to a tunic. The word comes from Dalmatia, a Roman province. This is also worn by a bishop for a Solemn High Pontifical Mass. It symbolizes the ancient duty of the deacon to bring communion to the shut-in, and to work for the widow, the orphan and the poor.

Deacon

The first step in Major Orders, a deacon is the ordinary minister of the Holy Eucharist. He can touch the Holy Eucharist, sing the Gospel and preach, perform baptisms and witness marriages, and bless certain things. A transitional deacon is preparing for the priesthood. A permanent deacon will remain as a deacon and not go on to the priesthood.

Dispensation

This is the relaxation of a law in a particular case by the lawgiver or by an authorized person. The Pope can dispense from all ecclesiastical laws; bishops and superiors can dispense from some of these laws. No one can dispense from Divine laws.

Divine Office

This great prayer of the Church consists of eight liturgical hours, which extend the celebration of the Mass throughout the day, and prepare for it. These hours – not solar hours for the Minor Hours take only ten minutes to say – begin with Matins (morning) and then Lauds, Prime, Tierce, Sext, None, Vespers and Compline. They mostly consist of the Psalms. All 150 of the Psalms are prayed in a week.

Divine Praises

Written in 1797 by Fr. Luigi Felici, S.J. to make reparation for profane language and blasphemy. They are recited publicly at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

D.O.M.

Abbreviation for the Latin words *Deo Optimo Maximo*, “To God, the best and the greatest.” Often put on a cornerstone, they indicate the dedication of a church to God.