

Catechism on the Liturgy II, 7

Doxology

From a Greek word meaning “praise.” A Doxology is a particular praise to the Holy Trinity. One of the most famous is “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

Dyptych

From the Greek *diptukon*, “folder.” A painting used on the altar that can be folded in such a way as to show two different scenes. A triptych can be folded to show three scenes, or three panels. It is also a folder of wood or metal on which were written the names of the Christians who were to be remembered in the Canon of the Mass. This ancient dyptych is now the prayer called the *Communicantes* of the Canon of the Mass.

Easter

The greatest and most solemn of all the feasts, it is the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord. It is also called the Pasch, after the Jewish feast commemorating the emancipation of the Jews from their slavery in Egypt. It was in His last celebration of Passover, on the first Holy Thursday, that Christ instituted the priesthood and Holy Eucharist of the New Law. Easter is the Christian Passover, by which man was delivered from the bondage of the devil. The word comes from the Old English *Eastre*, which means “to shine from the East.” There was a goddess of fertility at that time which was called Austron, and her feast was supplanted at the conversion of England.

Elevation, Major

The lifting of the Host and chalice high in the air at the consecration. It is symbolic of the offering of Christ to the Father.

Eucharist

From the Greek meaning “thanksgiving,” it is a technical term for the Mass, since during its institution at the Last supper, Christ gave thanks to His Father, and in sacrificing His life for us, offered the supreme act of Christian gratitude to God.

Ex opere operantis

A Latin phrase meaning “from the work of the worker.” The dispositions or state of grace of the doer of a sacrament do not affect the efficacy of a sacrament. But they do determine the amount of grace received or not received by that person in the case of a sacramental or an indulgenced prayer or good work.

Ex opere operato

A Latin phrase which means “from the work of the work.” It refers to the validity of a sacrament, which comes about not through the work of the worker (i.e., the holiness of the priest or bishop), but from celebrating the sacrament correctly, with proper matter, form and intention. So our Lord shepherds us well despite the constant failure of his priests.

Exultet

From the Latin “exalt,” it is a superb hymn sung only once a year at the Easter Vigil, in conjunction with the blessing of the Paschal Candle.

Evangelarium

A book containing only the Epistles and Gospels to be sung at the Mass.

Extraordinary Form of the Roman Liturgy.

This is the technical, or juridical term for the traditional Latin Mass. Pope Benedict has referred to it as the *Vetus Ordo* (the Old Order) of the Mass;

the Eastern churches and Cardinal Hoyos refer to it as the Gregorian Rite; commonly it is called the Tridentine Mass. I often call it the Old Mass, as distinct from the New Mass.

Faculties

Authorizations granted to bishops by the Holy See, or to priests and deacons by ordinaries to allow them to employ their powers in favor of the faithful they serve. A priest receives the power to absolve from sins at his ordination, but he may not use that power unless he receives this permission from the local bishop. All the sacraments demand faculties for their licit administration. Preaching also requires faculties.

Faldstool

A portable or folding stool for the bishop to sit on or when he is kneeling, for support. It is used when the bishop is not seated at the throne. It is literally a stool which can be folded (thus

the old teutonic word for fold was *fald*).

Fast, Eucharistic

Refraining from food and drink at least one hour before the reception of Holy Communion out of reverence for the Holy Eucharist. Medicines and water are exempt from the fast, as are the faithful who are sick or pregnant or aged. A priest who binates or tricates may eat and drink between the celebrations.

Feasts

Days of the Church year which commemorate certain events or sacred mysteries. The celebration of feasts consists primarily of the Mass in honor of the saint or mystery, and the Divine Office in honor of the same. Some feasts are fixed, that is, they occur on the same date each year. Some are movable, the date of which depends on the day assigned to Easter.