

## Catechism on the Liturgy II, 10

### **Minor Elevation**

A slight lifting of the Host and the chalice before the *Pater Noster*.

### **Missa Cantata**

A Mass which is sung by the priest, but without a deacon or a subdeacon.

### **Missal**

From the Latin meaning “to be sent,” it is the book which has all the written text and musical notes for the priest to be able to say or sing the Mass.

### **Mitre**

A kind of crown worn by the bishop for liturgical functions; the precious mitre has jewels in it since it since the bishop represents the Lord who was crowned with many diadems. (Apoc. 19.12) It does not resemble crowns of earthly kings. Instead it has two horns like the light which encircled the brow of Moses when he descended from Mt. Sinai. As Moses was both a guide and a legislator for the Israelites, so the horns represent this and also the Old and New Testaments.

### **Monstrance**

Refers to the cross-shaped golden vessel used to expose the Blessed Sacrament to the faithful that they may adore Him. It’s from a Latin word which means “to show.”

### **Oblation**

A Latin word meaning “gift.” Our oblations at the Mass are the gifts of our attention, devotion, worship, etc.

### **Octave**

A feast day celebrated for eight days in a row. It originates with Solomon’s dedication, renewed at the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem after it

had been desecrated by the Roman vassal king Antiochus Epiphanes, which took eight days. The record of this may be found in the Book of Maccabees. The first Christian feast of dedication is the historical octave of Easter, the eight days between the resurrection and the second appearance of Christ to the Apostles. The connection between the original Jewish octave of the rededication of the temple and the ancient octave of the Dedication of a Church is profound. Christ’s body is the true temple; desecrated by scourging, crucifixion and death; rededicated by resurrection. His death removes once and for all the Jewish prohibition on contact with or touching the dead.

### **Ostensorium**

Another word for monstrance, and it refers to the cross shaped or round golden or silver vessel used to expose the Blessed Sacrament to the faithful that they might adore Him.

### **Pall**

A decorated or plain square card of some weight, which is used to cover the chalice during the Mass. The word is also used for the black cloth which is placed over a casket at the funeral Mass, but it is called the Funeral Pall.

### **Pallium**

Reserved for archbishops, it is a woolen, white band from the fleece of lambs, and has black crosses on it. It reminds the archbishop that he must toil to carry the little sheep on his shoulders regardless of the cost. It is worn over the chasuble, and has three pins which attach it to the chasuble. This is a reminder of the three nails which fastened Christ to the Cross, which He willingly did for love of His sheep.

**Paten**

From the Latin *patena* meaning “open,” it is a small golden plate used as the vessel which brings to the priest the consecrated host before his communion. Originally very large to accommodate all the hosts needed for the faithful, now a ciborium is used. A hand-paten is used by the acolyte to place under the chin of the communicant at the altar rail.

**Pectoral Cross**

Worn over the chest (*pectora* in Latin), it is a cross of precious metal with or without jewels and representing not only the crucifixion but the resurrection and ascension.

**Prayer**

From the old English, meaning “please.” “Pray pass the salt” one used to say at table. We use the word liturgically to refer to any loving or respectful address to the God, the saints or the angels. St. Francis de Sales once defined prayer as “A loving conversation with God.”

**Procession**

This is the movement of the celebrant and the ministers from the vestibule to the sanctuary. In a Solemn High Pontifical Mass, the subdeacon represents the Old Testament and the deacon represents the New Testament. The closed book carried by the subdeacon represents the mystery of the prophecies of the Old Testament. The assistant priest is a figure of the Law of Moses under the high priest Aaron. The two deacons at the side of the bishop represent Abraham and David, who received the majority of the promises of the Incarnate Word. The Gospel also puts them at the head of the ancestor’s of Christ; “The book of the generations of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.”

**Processional**

This is a book which provides the texts and all the manners of the processions used in the liturgy.