

University of Notre Dame
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Do You Know That

There are Catholic churches in every section of the globe where not a word of Latin is spoken; where there is no genuflection on entering or leaving the church? Indeed, there may be no statues of Our Lady or St. Joseph, or any favorite saint; no font for holy water; no Stations of the Cross. The altar may be entirely hidden from view.

Yet, these are just as truly Catholic churches as if they had been founded by St. Peter himself, and as if the Holy Father served as pastor. We are not familiar with them because we belong to the Latin rite. These are churches of the Oriental rites.

There are 5 parent groups: the Alexandrian, the Antiochene, the Armenia, the Byzantine, and the Chaldean, depending mostly upon the type of language used. These 5 are sub-divided into 19 different rites -- each with its own history and ceremonial, with practices and customs that reach back to the earliest days of Christianity.

The Holy See has repeatedly encouraged the preservation and the development of these rites; and has sought to bring about a more cordial understanding of their antiquity and beauty by members of the Latin rite. It should not be forgotten that they have given many saints to the Church -- Justin the Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons, Ignatius, the martyr-bishop of Antioch, John Chrysostom of Constantinople, Ephrem of Odessa ...

These Oriental churches -- so called because they began and flourished chiefly in the Near East, as distinguished from what we call the West -- as Rome and Western Europe were known -- are not very large.

About 15 million of these people are obedient to the Holy Father, and look to Rome as the center of all Christendom.

About 160 million of their neighbors who at one time were united in recognizing the Chair of St. Peter, and the authority of the Pope, are today called dissidents, or schismatics -- because they regard various patriarchs as their leaders. Yet, their teachings are orthodox; and their Orders are valid.

Today We Begin The Octave

Tonight at 5:15, in Dillon Hall Chapel, we begin the Octave of prayer that all rites, and all members of those rites, may be united once more in the Mystical Body of Christ. The devotion is a brief one -- recitation of the official Octave prayer and Benediction. Drop in on your way to supper.

It is interesting to note that the Blessed Virgin is accorded full honors by all Eastern rites. Perhaps in this Marian Year, this ancient and universal love for the Mother of God in the East, and the flowering of our devotion to Her in the West, may be the bridge for uniting all sects of Christendom -- even to the realization of "One Fold and One Shepherd." St. Ignatius of Antioch promised that: "He who is devout to the Virgin-Mother will certainly never be lost."

PRAYERS - Deceased: father of Father James Moran, CSC; mother of John Hastings, '53;
father of Father Joseph Rehage, CSC; John Bliss; father of Jim Duffy of Dil.

Today's Octave Intention -- the return of "other sheep" to the fold of St. Peter.

Tomorrow's Intention -- The return of Oriental dissidents to the Apostolic See.