
The "Printers' Mass"

"Two-o'clock-in-the-morning Mass in New York City is the Mass of mystery. Midnight Mass is mostly seasonal and solemn; but two o'clock Mass is secret, almost conspiratorial, said in low tones for ordinary people, workaday and yet wondersome.

"It's a come-as-you-are gathering. It's allegorical, like the mediaeval guilds acting out a Mystery play, each in the livery of its craft. It's the cop in the uniform and the fireman, the taxi driver and the newsboy, the dinner jacket and the evening gown with a handkerchief pinned over a head. It's the waitress and the bandsman, the bus driver and the college crowd; and it's also the newspaper printer -- for whom this Mass was first named.

"But it's more -- it's the old waterfront crowd again. It's Peter and James and all the other fishermen, up a little late, still in their working clothes, or maybe partied up a bit from that clambake down at Cana.

"It's the big city late at night. It's night life saying its prayers. It's eternity caught between ticks of time. It's worldlings cracking their secret hearts for a quick peek at heaven.

"No matter how often you come, the atmosphere is always the same. No music, just the silence and the murmur of the low Mass.

"It's more than a classless society. It's the one gathering so casual that the differences make no difference. It's man-in-the-mass at Mass. It's proof of the staggering mystery that sometimes it takes difference in men to show the unity of man!"

-- William J. Dammarell in Extension

Sacrifice!!

"If someone with the knowledge to do it would write a book about the price that gallant men and women have paid, gladly, to hear Mass all through the ages, from the time of the catacombs until now, in all the countries of the world, what an inspiration that would be! And how it would shame us when we do not go to Mass simply because it would mean a little effort, which we are too lazy to make..."

-- Caryll Houselander in Marist Missions.

The Bargain

"Up to the very last hours before his reception into the Church, the friends of the great Cardinal Newman endeavoured to dissuade him from taking the final step. None of their arguments seemed to have any effect on their friend. Finally, they determined to try what they thought would be an irresistible appeal: 'Think of what you are doing,' they exclaimed. 'If you become a Catholic you will thereby forfeit your income of 4000 pounds (\$20,000) a year!' But instead of Newman's resolve being shaken, it was his friends who were reduced to speechlessness by his answer: 'What are 4000 pounds when compared to one Holy Communion!'"

-- The Monstrance

In Dillon chapel there's a daily Mass at 5:30 a.m. Later, there are Masses in all the other halls. And though it is best to receive our Lord at Mass, Holy Communion is distributed at 10-minute intervals until noon in Dillon.

Now what is your excuse?