



There is an old saw which goes something like this. God gives us two ends. One end to think with and one end to sit on. Our success depends on which end we use most. "Heads we win. . . . tails we lose."

"It's the Mass that matters." That's what the Reformers said when they fought to discredit the Church and destroy it.

The Mass does matter. It is the heart and soul of our Catholic worship. Cardinal Newman makes a distinction between notional and real religious understanding. For too many of us our knowledge of the Mass and other great mysteries of faith is notional only--that is, speculative, abstract, lifeless.

Real religious understanding is alive, practical, dynamic. According to Newman, the transformation that goes on in the soul, changing sinners into saints, the lukewarm into ardent lovers of God, is a change from notional to real knowledge.

What will bring about this transformation? God's grace is sufficient. Why isn't it efficacious? Will God have to go so far as to wollop us over the head?

We accept these facts: that students do not flock to daily Mass; that they continue to saunter in late for Sunday Masses; that many, by far too many, do not receive Communion at least once a week on Sunday; that most do not pray the Mass with the priest; that gorilla-like postures bespeak sluggish devotion. But the point is: WHY? W H Y ?

What is the motive underlying this apparent indifference? Is it laziness? Weak faith? Ignorance? The most powerful prayer on earth is the prayer of Christ at Mass. And the Mass is the unbloody, eternally renewed Sacrifice of the Cross.

There will be no individual or collective renovation of society, no restoration of all things in Christ, unless we unite ourselves with Christ and in Christ, work through Him and for Him by way of the Mass. "For the center of the Mass is God, who is Love."

In no other way will we have the grace and the strength "to bring God back to men and men back to God.", . . . To make your knowledge of the Mass real, begin to pray it with the priest. Use your head and you will use your missal. It's still: "Heads you win; tails you lose."

Prayers: (ill) mother of Wayne E, Thuram, ex-'36; Mr. A. Anderson. Special intention.

