

THE BEAUTY OF THE MASS—4

Some of you may remember years ago, before Vatican II, the Mass had two parts: the Mass of the Catechumens (which included the Introductory Rite, the Penitential Rite, the Opening Prayer, the Readings from Scripture, the Sermon and the Profession of Faith) and the Mass of the Faithful (which included the Offertory, the Eucharistic Prayer and Consecration, Communion and Dismissal). Back then, if you missed first part with the Scripture readings and sermon, but were present for the second part, you still fulfilled your Sunday obligation.

The Vatican Council brought us back to our roots and placed an equally important emphasis on both parts of the Mass. It is no longer acceptable to come late to Mass and miss the Scripture readings and the homily.

As in the early Church, the Mass has two main parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I will be explaining in some detail these two parts of the Mass during the next few weeks.