



St. Therese Catholic Church

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June 22, 2011

Dear St. Therese Friends,

Attending Mass in Liberia, West Africa as a child, remains burned into my memory more than thirty years later. My parents, brother and I stood out in the mostly African Cathedral parish. In my mind's eye I can see and hear the liturgy and the music, uplifting and spirited, aided by drums and a variety of instruments. Everyone sang and all prayed the prayers with energetic faith. While the celebration typically lasted more than an hour, there was no urgent need to run for the door before the priest. The dignity of the Mass was evident also in the celebrant's beautiful vestments and the Sunday best that everyone else wore. Even in a church with no air-conditioning. Even in the extreme heat of the dry season.

How I wish American Catholics could learn some of the spiritual habits of older Christian cultures such as are found among the Africans, Middle Eastern people and others. American culture prides itself on its informality and friendliness, and these are good qualities. But sometimes the habits we bring to worship are barriers to encountering the Living God in the Holy Eucharist. Before I give examples, I will state very clearly that I am not God. Certainly I do not pretend to know your soul and the concrete details of your lives. Some food for thought in your examination of conscience:

- Not all clothing is appropriate for Mass. My appropriate outfit for the lake might not help me to enter with reverence into the Holy of Holies of the Mass. Do you remember the parable that Jesus taught about the necessity of coming to the wedding feast with the appropriate garment? The parable has multiple meanings, but can be applied to the garment we wear to worship. Paying attention to the way we dress our bodies is an act of worship in itself. We are a body-soul union which means we ought to prepare our soul and our body for the Eucharist.
- Americans are time-conscious, by definition. Especially if we have children, our schedules tend to be pretty tight. But how does watching the clock work at church? Most priests are conscious of keeping Mass within an hour. Sometimes Mass is shorter, sometimes longer. At times, the feast requires more than an hour (Think Easter Vigil!). Why then do so many of our worshippers feel the need to walk out the door with the Body of Christ fresh on their tongue? Why do too many of our neighbors insist on reaching the church door before the ministers of the altar and the priest? Any thoughts?

A special welcome to seminarian Andy Young who will be with us throughout the month of July. Please join the Vocations Committee for a "Meet & Greet" event after all Masses the weekend of July 23rd & 24th.

Blessing on your summer and keep Sunday Mass in your summer schedule...

Fr. David E. Stevens

Fr. David Stevens

Don't Miss Out! Sign up Now! St. Therese Church Directory Photos!!!



August:	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th
September:	20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th
October:	5th, 6th, 7th and 8th

New this year – parishioners may sign up on-line! Visit our website at www.st-therese.ws click on "Links" (on the left) and then click on the "Portrait Scheduling Site" and follow the instructions on the right to schedule your photo sessions. If you have any questions or problems, please contact Ted or Pat Feller at 338-3052, or email tafeller@sio.midco.net. See the enclosed Insert for more information.

Watch the bulletin for dates to sign up after Masses.