

### A few quotes from Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's New Book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*.

"We have already spoken of the Preparation of the Gifts, the significance of which in the new rite is not entirely clear." (p.213)

"In 1978, to the annoyance of many liturgists, I said that in no sense does the whole Canon always have to be said aloud. After much consideration, I should like to repeat and underline the point here in the hope that, twenty years later, this thesis will be better understood." (p.214)

"That is why, whenever possible, we should definitely take up again, the apos-

toxic tradition of facing the east, both in the building of churches and in the celebration of the liturgy." (p.70)

"This means that 'creativity' cannot be an authentic category for matters liturgical. In any case, this is a word that developed within the Marxist world view." (p.168)

"We shall have more to say about the practical consequences of the significance of the Christian altar, because the question of the correct position for the altar is at the center of the postconciliar debate. (p.71)

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**Continued from page 6** ial position was not assigned in recognition of the human person of the Bishop or the priest, nor his intellectual gifts nor even his personal holiness, but rather in acknowledgment of his role as an instrument of the invisible Pontiff who is the Lord Jesus.

When it is a question of ancient churches or churches of great artistic value, it is appropriate, moreover, to bear in mind civil legislation regarding changes or re-orderings. The addition of a further altar may not always be a worthy solution.

There is no need to give excessive importance to elements which have changed over the centuries. That which remains is the event which the liturgy celebrates. This is manifested through signs, symbols and words which express various aspects of the mystery without, however, exhausting it, because it transcends them. Adopting and rigidly adhering to a particular position could become a rejection of some aspect of the truth which merits respect and acceptance.

From the Vatican, 25th September 2000.  
 Jorge A.Cardinal Medina Estévez.  
 Prefect  
 + Francesco Pio Tamburrino