

ember 20, 1929, We ourself in the encyclical *Mediator Dei (On the Sacred Liturgy)*, issued November 20, 1947, have enriched and confirmed the orders of the older Pontiffs.

21. Certainly no one will be astonished that the Church is so vigilant and careful about sacred music. It is not a case of drawing up laws of aesthetics or technical rules that apply to the subject of music. It is the intention of the Church, however, to protect sacred music against anything that might lessen its dignity, since it is called upon to take part in something as important as divine worship.

22. On this score sacred music obeys laws and rules which are no different from those prescribed for all religious art and, indeed, for art in general. Now we are aware of the fact that during recent years some artists, gravely offending against Christian piety, have dared to bring into churches works devoid of any religious inspiration and

completely at variance with the right rules of art. They try to justify this deplorable conduct by plausible-looking arguments which they claim are based on the nature and character of art itself. They go on to say that artistic inspiration is free and that it is wrong to impose upon it laws and standards extraneous to art, whether they are religious or moral, since such rules seriously hurt the dignity of art and place bonds and shackles on the activity of an inspired artist.

23. Arguments of this kind raise a question which is certainly difficult and serious, and which affects all art and every artist. It is a question which is not to be answered by an appeal to the principles of art or of aesthetics, but which must be decided in terms of the supreme principle of the final end, which is the inviolate and sacred rule for every man and every human act.



Apostolic Action Items

These items are recommended for action either individually or by local chapters

Liturgical:

- Give a copy of Joseph, Cardinal Ratzinger's new book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, to your pastor and associates.
- Obtain a copy of volume 1 of Scanlon and Scanlon's *Latin Grammar*---study it yourself or set up a course for others. **Nota Bene:** the dictionary at the back of this volume contains all the words of the Roman Missal and the Divine Office. Get crackin' at your Latin!
- Search for and digest the 5 volumes of Blessed Ildefonso Schuster's *Liber Sacramentorum* (Note this book is currently out of print so you will have to check with used book dealers, but it is well worth the search).
- Make copies of the new instruction of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith *On Prayers for Healing* and give them to prayer groups etc., etc.

Social:

- Print up copies of the Pontifical Council for the Family's *Instruction on Marriage Family and de facto unions*, available from our web site www.omm.org, and distribute them to members of congress, state legislatures, etc., etc.
- Distribute the excellent text---*Catholicism and Ethics, A Medical/Moral Handbook*---particularly to medical doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, etc., etc.

Catechetical:

- Give copies of *The Aquinas Catechism* to friends and neighbors, especially non Catholics.

**So, my dear friends, take these apostolic action items seriously
and you will help to turn the tide**