

## THE USE OF THE LATIN LANGUAGE IN THE LITURGY – Part 2

One does not need to engage in a laborious study of Latin in order to be familiar with the Latin prayers recited at Mass, nor do they need to know Latin conjugations and declensions.

Allow me to demonstrate by examining the Sanctus which is sung just prior to the consecration.

The Latin words are as follows:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

There are a number of words in the English language derived from the word Sanctus, three that come to mind are sanctimonious (holier than thou), sanctitude (the state or quality of being holy), sanctity (the state of being holy), and sanctuary (a sacred, consecrated, holy place). Therefore, one who knows the prayer in English can easily deduce that the word sanctus means holy.

Similarly, a number of words in the English language are derived from the word Dominus; dominion (supreme authority and sovereignty), domineer (to exercise arbitrary or overbearing control), dominate (commanding influence and control, to be the most important or conspicuous person), dominant (most important, powerful, or influential). When we think of a dominating presence, we often think of one who lords it over others. Thus, if one is familiar with the prayer they would rightly deduce that Dominus means Lord.

From Deus is derived the word deity which means God, and sabaoth is taken from Hebrew and appears in the Old Testament numerous times to refer to hosts or armies.

When I hear the word pleni, I think of the words plenteous, plentiful, and plenty. We say we've had plenty to eat when we're full. Pleni means full.

Sum, esse, fui, means to be and sunt is just the 3rd person plural "they are."

They are full. What is full? The answer can be found in the following words: caeli et terra.

From caeli is derived the following words: ceiling and Celia or Sheila which means heavenly. The firmament of Heaven acts as a ceiling as we think of the Heavens as something above and Hell as something below. Caeli means heaven.

We get the words terran (earthling), terraqueous (formed of land and water), terrarium (sealed container consisting of soil and plants), and terrain (means ground in French) from the Latin word terra which means earth.

Heaven and earth are full of what? Gloria tua. Gloria means glory and tua means your.

Hosanna is Greek meaning save, rescue, savior and in excelsis means in the highest. Words like excellent, excel, and excellence means being outstanding or extremely good, or possessing the highest degree of honor or dignity, like a bishop who was commonly referred to as "Your Excellency."

Benedictus means blessed. The priest is often asked to offer the benediction before meals or at academic ceremonies.

Qui means who. Blessed who? Venit (He who comes) A vent is where air is able to come into a building, the word advent is used to denote the coming of someone or something, and the Latin word venit means, to come and its ending is second person singular meaning he in this case.

In nomine Domini.

Nomine means name and we use words like nominal catholic to suggest that a person is Catholic in name only.

Domini, is used in denoting the year as A.D. (Anno Domini) and as mentioned above means Lord.

And finally, we repeat Hosanna in excelsis – Hosanna in the highest.

### **The Agnus Dei:**

Latin

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

English

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

We get the name Agnes from the Latin agnus and it means lamb. That is why the Virgin Martyr Agnes is portrayed holding a lamb in popular church art. Dei is genitive singular and means "of God". The English word deity is derived from this Latin word.

Tollis in Latin means "take away". English words that derive from this are toll-bridge, toll-gate, toll-collector, toll-free phone call, because they take a toll (a take away).

Mundi means world, we get the old English word mapmounde from this Latin word which has been shortened to map which means napkin. A map is a napkin of the world or part of the world. The English word mundane also comes from the Latin mundus which refers to the orderly arrangement of the universe. A mundane dress for example is one that is orderly arranged and doesn't stand out.

There are words in various romance languages that are derived from peccata but none that I can think of in English, but by the process of elimination we can deduce its meaning. Peccata means sins.

Miserere means "to have mercy on" in fact the word mercy is derived from this Latin word and nobis means "us."

Dona nobis pacem:

Do, dare, dedi, datum, means to give, to grant. The English word "donate" is derived from this Latin word.

Again, nobis means "us" and pacem means peace.

Fairly simple and doesn't need to be complex.

Jesus said: "do not let your hearts be troubled" I think it was in reference to the use of Latin in the liturgy.

### **The Mystery of Faith.**

Mortem tuam annuntiámus, Dómine, et tuam resurrectionem confitémur, donec vénias.

Mortem clearly indicates death. The English word postmortem is an examination after death. Mortuary science also deals with death and dying. Tuam as stated in previous posts means "your". Who's death? Your death. Annuntiamus means to announce and its evident just by its appearance. We even speak of the Archangel Gabriel's announcement to Mary as the Annunciation. We announce or proclaim what? Your death. Who's death? Domine (Lord). The English word dominion and dominate and domicile come from this root word. A Lord has authority power and dominion in his house. Domina means lady. Each man and woman are Lord and Lady of their domain or their house. Et means "and." Tuam means "your". Resurrectionem just as it looks means Resurrection. Confitemur means confess or profess, in fact we call the confession of faith that we recite at the beginning of Mass, the Confiteor. We proclaim your death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection. Donec means "until".

Until what? Vénias "you come again". We get the word advent from vénias which is the coming or return of a king or of the Christ. There you have it: We proclaim your Death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.