

In this third installment of the results from our Liturgical Questionnaire, we turn now to our Multilingual and Latin language questions. I write this the day after Ash Wednesday, where we had a very large attendance (754) at our multilingual Mass in the evening. In the Comments section of the questionnaire, many people noted their appreciation for our multilingual celebrations, especially the unifying aspect of Latin.

### Multilingual Considerations

In all segments except visitors, at least 86% of respondents say they are **aware that about half of the Catholics who attend the Basilica do not speak English**. This awareness is over 90% among those who support the parish and those who attend the 11:30 Mass and the *Missa Cantata*, the Masses which directly precede and follow the Spanish Mass. Those who support the parish with time, talent, or treasure report the greatest awareness of the language barrier: 96%.

Across all segments except the Latin Mass attendees, 68%-76% (nearly 3 in 4) agree that **it is appropriate to use both English and Spanish readings and prayers in Masses when the whole community is present**. Comments indicate that some who say they disagree with the use of Spanish and English prayers instead prefer the use of Latin to unify the community.

3 out of 4 respondents in most segments (74% overall) affirm that **it is appropriate to celebrate solemnities and special events as one community rather than be divided by our languages**. Support for celebrating together as one community is a bit *lower* among those aged 45-59 (65%) and visitors (68%), and *greater* among those who attend the *Missa Cantata* (83%).

Though the respondents strongly affirm their support for multilingual/combined-community celebrations, there were 20 write-in comments on this topic (9% of all comments submitted), and most of these comments express the opinion that bilingual elements in the Mass are challenging and complicated.

The vast majority of those surveyed **appreciate the unifying role that the Latin language plays in our major liturgies, enabling us to pray with one voice**. 83% overall and about 4 out of 5 respondents in all categories affirm this belief.

This confirms to us that having our multilingual Masses during the holy days is a unifying aspect in our community and indicates that we should continue doing it.

### Use of Latin in the Sung Ordinary of the Mass

**The Church's teaching that all faithful should learn to sing the Ordinary parts of the Mass in Latin** is understood better by the younger age groups (90%), by females (87%), and especially those who attend the 11:30 Mass (88%) and the *Missa Cantata* (97%), the two Masses when Latin is used extensively. Those attending the 5:30 Mass, where Latin is rarely used, reported the least understanding of this Church teaching (72%), which is even less understanding than that of visitors (80%).

Of the two Mass times which only include an English Sung Ordinary, 74% of those who attend the 9:00 Mass and 70% of those who attend the 5:30 Mass **appreciate the Latin Sung Ordinary as well as English**. Appreciation for both Latin and English settings of the Sung Ordinary is highest among those under age 18 (88%) as well as those who attend the 11:30 Mass (83%), where both languages are used most freely, and lowest among those aged 45-59 (72%).

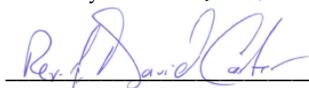
When asked if they **appreciate a Mass with the sung Ordinary sung in Latin**, only 17% express disagreement. The only segments with greater disagreement on this question include 32% of those who attend the 5:30 Mass; 22% of those who attend the 9:00 Mass; 22% of those ages 45-59; 23% of those ages 60 and up; as well as 22% of visitors.

When asked if they **prefer a Mass that includes only English, with no remnant of the original Latin/Greek**, only 19% agree. The only segments who agree slightly *more* on preferring only English include 27% of those who attend the 5:30 Mass; 24% of those who attend the 9:00 Mass; 30% of those ages 45-59; as well as 20% of visitors.

Of the 20 write-in comments about the use of Latin in the Ordinary parts of the Mass (9% of all comments), the majority are supportive of Latin, and some request opportunities to learn the Latin.

Whether one likes it or not, Latin is a part of our heritage and tradition as Latin rite Catholics. We have a certain obligation to respect and even promote this heritage as a conveyor of the Catholic faith to us, even in our own age. This survey shows that we have at least turned the tide against outright hatred of the Latin language and visceral rejection of it experienced in other places, but indicates that we probably still need to do more education and formation in this area.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,



Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, Pastor and Rector