



"The Reform of the Liturgy: Tradition and Development."

On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, Pope Leo XIV continued his catechetical series on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, focusing on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

Main points of his message

1. Authentic reform preserves tradition while allowing legitimate development.

Pope Leo emphasized that the Church's liturgy is a living reality. True reform does not abandon the Church's heritage; rather, it deepens and renews it so that the faithful can participate more fully in worship. He explained that Vatican II sought continuity with the Church's tradition while adapting pastoral practices to help modern believers encounter Christ more effectively.

2. The liturgy is the source and summit of Christian life.

Building on the teaching of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, he stressed that the liturgy is not merely ceremonial or symbolic. Through the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, Christ continues His saving work and forms the Church into one body. (cultodivino.va)

3. Active participation of the faithful is essential.

The Pope reiterated one of Vatican II's central themes: all baptized Catholics are called to participate consciously, actively, and fruitfully in the liturgy. Participation is not limited to external actions but includes interior prayer, attentiveness, and union with Christ. (cultodivino.va)

4. The Church must avoid two extremes.

His catechesis warned against both:

" treating tradition as something frozen and untouchable, and

" pursuing innovation detached from the Church's heritage.

He presented authentic liturgical development as a process guided by the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Church's continuous life. (cultodivino.va)

5. The goal of liturgical reform is holiness and evangelization.

The Pope explained that liturgical renewal is not an end in itself. Its purpose is to draw people closer to God, deepen holiness, strengthen the Church's unity, and support the Church's mission in the world. (cultodivino.va)

In Summary

Pope Leo XIV's central message was that the liturgy must remain faithful to the Church's tradition while developing in ways that help each generation encounter Christ more deeply. Reform and tradition are not opponents; they belong together in the Church's ongoing life.