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IX. Liturgical Issues

A. Vesture:

1. "In the Church, the Body of Christ, not all members have the same function. This diversity of ministries is shown outwardly in worship by the diversity of vestments. These should therefore symbolize the function proper to each ministry. But at the same time the vestments should also contribute to the beauty of the rite."
2. "The vestment common to ministers of every rank is the alb. The chasuble, worn over the alb and stole, is the vestment proper to the priest celebrant at Mass and other liturgical rites immediately connected with Mass." By current common practice, the stole may be worn outside the chasuble provided the vestments are so designed.
3. The dalmatic, worn over the alb and stole, is the vestment proper to the deacon" (from the General Instruction . . ., #298-301).

B. Vessels:

1. "In a Eucharistic celebration, the vessels for the bread and wine deserve attention and care. Just as in other types of celebration, those objects which are central in the rite are a natural focus. When the Eucharistic assembly is large, it is desirable not to have the additional plates and cups necessary for communion on the altar. A solution is to use one large breadplate and either one large chalice or a large flagon until the breaking of the bread. At the fraction, any other chalices or plates needed are brought to the altar. . ."
2. "Like the plates and chalices or flagons, all other vessels and implements used in the liturgical celebration should be of such quality and design that they speak of the importance of the ritual action. Pitchers, vessels for holy oils, bowls, cruets, sprinklers, censers, baskets for collection, etc.--all are presented to the assembly in one way or another and speak well or ill of the deed in which the assembly is engaged" (Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, #96-97).

C. Non-liturgical symbols:

1. Only Christian symbols may be placed in the sanctuary of the church. This policy also applies to the placing of

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flags or insignia on the coffin during funeral liturgies.

2. Other symbols, such as national flags, or flags or insignia of associations, have no place as a permanent fixture in the sanctuary nor should they replace a liturgical symbol such as the funeral pall.
3. On national holidays, such as the Fourth of July, Presidents' Day or Thanksgiving Day, the American flag may be used with discretion. As for funeral liturgies, the American flag or insignia may be on the coffin at the funeral home. It is to be removed from the coffin at the door of the church so that the white pall, recalling the baptismal robe, can be placed on the coffin (cf. Order of Christian Funerals, #38).

D. Sunday Celebrations without a Priest:

Conditions for holding Sunday celebrations without a priest and the order for such celebrations are set down in the Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest, June 2, 1988 by the Congregation for Divine Worship (Publication #251-9, USCC).

E. Ceremonies of lay organizations during the Eucharist:

1. Ceremonies (e.g., installation of officers) of lay organizations (e.g., Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of American, Catholic Order of Foresters, etc.) should ideally take place not at the Eucharist, but at a service of the Word.
2. For pastoral reasons these ceremonies may take place at the Eucharist, but very rarely on Sunday, and only after the prayer following Holy Communion.
 - a. If these ceremonies are carried out during the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday, neither the members in their special garb nor the symbols (flags, banners, etc.) of these organizations should not be so conspicuous that they detract from the liturgy.
 - b. If they are carried out during the Eucharistic celebration on weekdays, the symbols of these organizations should not be so conspicuous that they detract from the liturgy.