

“Dies Domini” – Come to Mass!

Reading today’s (5th Sun of Easter) **Gospel of John** 15:1-8, do you think, maybe, Jesus wishes for us to “remain in Him”? Only 8 times He uses “remain” in his short talk! “Remain” in me, as I (will) “remain” in you.” And, **John’s 1st Letter** 3:18-24 also uses “remain,” “those who keep his commandments “remain” in Him and He (remains) in them.” In His Holy Spirit dwelling within them! So, “remain in Him,” “believe in Jesus,” and “love one another.” At least those two great commandments; and, per 1st John, “not (merely) in word & speech” but, rather, “in deed and truth;” and, of course, in “all” his commandments, the 10 Commandments and, assuredly, the **3rd, “Keep Holy the Sabbath.”**

“Remain in ME and I will remain in you”. So, WE “disciples” of Christ gather here on Sunday to “Keep Holy the Sabbath.” We do wish to remain in Jesus Christ! And, WE are right to be concerned to be attending “Mass” on the “Lord’s Day,” just in order to “keep holy the Sabbath” and, to do so, “Come to Mass,” every “Lord’s Day.” Every seventh day of rest in the Lord in order to “remain” in Him.

Just as our loving Pope John Paul II wrote to us in his **Apostolic Letter “Dies Domini.”** Every Sunday is the Lord Jesus Christ’s Day, the “Lord’s Day”, the Dies Domini, “his day – an ever new gift of his love” **“Dies Domini” ¶ 7**

Every Sabbath remembers that First Day of Creation and celebrates God’s good creation – his 6 days of creative work – on the 7th day – with our rest from our work and our re-creation, which allows for our praise & thanksgiving for His creation. “The Lord’s Day is the day...when men and women raise their song to God & become the voice of all creation.” In our dialogue of prayer! ¶ 15 of “Dies Domini,” here and hereafter.

And We Christians move from a **Saturday – Sabbath** to a **Sunday – Sabbath** just because Sunday remembers **Easter**. Remembers the “Lord’s day,” the day of His Resurrection, the day of our salvation, the day of our redemption, the day of our re-creation! ¶ 18 St. Gregory the Great wrote to us, “For us, the true Sabbath is the person of our Redeemer, our Lord Jesus Christ.” So we take our Sabbath rest for prayers and thanksgiving on our weekly Easter Day – Lord’s Day – Sunday, ¶ 30, “an indispensable element of our Christian identity.”

And on our weekly Sabbath Sun-Day of Rest, we “come to Mass” – not by happenstance; we “come to Mass” – not by mere preference as “Catholics;” we “come to Mass” – not by accident at all! But, rather, we “come to Mass” because **the Mass, the Eucharist, is the very “Heart of Sunday.”** ¶ 31 “The day of Resurrection, Sunday, is not only the remembrance of a past event: it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people”. So, per the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), “the Sunday celebration of the Lord’s Day and His Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life.”

So, we must celebrate Sunday by celebrating Mass! ¶ 46 & 47 Conscience has compelled us! Since long before the Canon Law obliged us! The Martyrs of Proconsular Africa witnessed, “We cannot live without the Lord’s Supper.” And, still today, it is OUR obligation – moral and canon legal: “On Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation the faithful are bound to attend Mass.”

Sunday Mass – is our grave obligation. Not - at all - a small matter! No venial sin merely to miss Sunday Mass! CCC 2181, “those who deliberately fail in this obligation (Sunday Mass) commit a grave sin.” ¶ 47 Pope John Paul II writes, “and it is easy to understand why (grave sin) if we keep in mind how vital Sunday is for the Christian Life.” I know that I am “preaching to the choir,” here. YOU are HERE. The others are NOT here. They will NOT hear this unless YOU tell it to them! ¶ 77-79 Also, our Holy Days of Obligation, apart from Sunday, present the very same vital importance and the very same grave obligation of Mass attendance.

¶ 81 “Yet (as Pope JP II writes to us) more than as a precept (a law, an obligation) the observance (of Sunday – with Mass) should be seen as a need rising from the depths of Christian Life.” He ends in ¶ 81, **“The Eucharist is the full realization of the worship which humanity owes to God, and it cannot be compared to any other religious experience.”** Jesus puts this claim upon us, “Remain in ME, as I remain in YOU!” Keep my Commandments. Keep holy the Sabbath. Every 7 days. **“Come to Mass”!!**

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