

Homily delivered during the Mass marking the opening of the CIEL Congress

by Bishop Juan Rodolfo Laise

Dear friends of CIEL,

It is once again a great joy for me to be amongst you on the occasion of your annual conference. This year, you have chosen ‘the sacred’ as your theme. It seems to me that this is of the utmost importance. Everything today has been desacralised. ‘God is dead’, it has been said; but if God is dead, so too is man.

Can you not see how, in our contemporary society, man counts for nothing? From birth to death, his life is in perpetual danger. Will we allow him to be born? Will we help him to die sooner than Providence would have wished? And in the intervening time, what will become of him in a world that speaks more of war than of peace? Yes, my dear brothers, if man is nothing anymore, it is because nothing is sacred in his eyes.

I believe that your association has a mission of the utmost importance in promoting the traditional Roman rite, which, in the liturgical sphere, is the most sublime manifestation of the sacred. Through the rich and beautiful vestments with which it is adorned; through the language, which is not that of the common people; through all the symbols and signs that clearly show that beneath all this there is a reality that must be respected and adored. The desacralisation of the liturgy, the trivialisation of the rites, and the distribution of Holy Communion in the hand have contributed greatly and culpably to the desacralisation of the ‘Sacred par excellence’: God, and the worship that men must render to Him by obeying the first three of the Ten Commandments.

May the Most Holy Virgin, who carried the Word of God in her sacred womb —she who was all-pure and wholly consecrated to her Lord—may she grant you, first and foremost to you priests, a true sense of the sacred, of who you are and what you do; and to you, dear faithful, may she grant the grace to approach, with reverential awe, like Moses, the manifestations of God in his liturgy.

Amen!