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Cum Petro

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A Christmas Carol poem by G.K.Chesterton

1874-1936

**The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,
His hair was like a light.
(O weary, weary were the world,
But here is all aright.)**

**The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast
His hair was like a star.
(O stern and cunning are the kings,
But here the true hearts are.)**

**The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,
His hair was like a fire.
(O weary, weary is the world,
But here the world's desire.)**

**The Christ-child stood on Mary's knee,
His hair was like a crown,
And all the flowers looked up at Him,
And all the stars looked down**



From the Desk of the English-Speaking Chaplain

The Mass may require only an altar, a victim and a priest to be said, but we humans want more. To once more quote Fr. Goodwin, “We all like to be able to embellish the Mass we are privileged to celebrate with the most beautiful things because the service of God demands it and it raises the hearts and minds of the Faithful to Him.” Can you even imagine how deeply it affected me to have him add that “Your work will be a most important contribution to our ability to do this.” My heart still literally stops for a second and I can barely catch my breath when I do experience a Mass being said in the vestments I made. Such a small contribution to the whole, but it is the way that I have been given to contribute

But don’t count me as a saint quite yet. Far from it. I do this to help others but also because I love doing it. And one very special blessing is the time it gives me to think and to pray; time that I might not have taken otherwise. And one very special meditation is when I consider how many hours Our Lady must have spent sewing for her husband and Son. Of course, this blessed lady never had to make a burse, but I think of the love she must have sewn into the countless seams of His life.

Another reward, one that is very personal and maybe even a little bit selfish is that through my making vestments for them, I’ve come to know a number of the priests of the Fraternity in ways that I could ever have otherwise. Besides, I know that they will keep me in their prayers and frankly, I need all the prayers that I can get.

In fact, in closing, I’d like to ask a favor of all of you who are reading this. Please do say a little prayer for me that for as long as I live and for as long as it be God’s will that there will always be both the need and the means for me to continue making these vestments for the priests of the Fraternity. Thank you.

Yes, Fr. Goodwin, in the Mass, everything matters, even, just maybe, something as seemingly unimportant as the humble needle and thread. I hope so.

Roylene Moore, Phoenix AZ

Only a couple weeks ago I was blessed to be present at the Rorate Mass that Fr. Berg celebrated at EWTN. It was a very beautiful Mass, as many of you who watched it on television were able to appreciate. In the sermon Fr. Berg made note of the fact that we are holding candles - candles to testify our love and fidelity to Our Lord. Not only do we hold candles, but we should be vigilant, like the prudent virgins, and being ready, watch always.

Now that Advent has passed and we rejoice with the angels around the manger, adoring our King who has been born, we should continue to bear our spiritual candles, aflame in our hearts with His love, and be ready to bring those flames to light up a world that is darkened by commerce, traffic and material cares.

Being a member of the Confraternity doesn’t mean just fulfilling the obligations of the decade of the Rosary, the Confraternity Prayer and the annual Mass, and that’s it. We should not consider these things as if paying dues, like you would pay your annual dues to the Knights of Columbus. Any of you who are Knights will know that a Knight of Columbus who merely pays his due each year and does not participate in the charitable functions and meetings of the organization has slackened in his practice.

In the same way as the Knights do far more than just pay dues, so also the prayers that are requested of members of the CSP are required as a manner of participation in the work of the Fraternity of St. Peter. While not every member of the Confraternity can help to extend the work of the Fraternity by saying Mass or opening new apostolates, these prayers permit the member to participate, by the bond of prayer, in the work of the Fraternity, and help extend the fruit of the FSSP by praying for that end.

But this is not the extent to which membership in the CSP consists. At the same time the tint of the spirituality of the Fraternity should reflect itself in the very life of the Confraternity member. Devotion to the Mass should become a part of the member's daily life, bearing the candle of fidelity not only inside the church building for an hour on Sunday, but each day, forming our lives to reflect the fruits of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in every aspect of our daily lives.

In this present issue of *Cum Petro* and also in a few future issues, I have asked a few of the members of the Confraternity to write articles about the works of apostolate that they do in their daily lives. They have gone beyond the obligations of the CSP to unite themselves to the work of the Fraternity by different aspects of active apostolate.

In the CSP we are blessed to have members of every walk of life. We have fathers, mothers and families who make praying for the work of the Fraternity part of their daily rosary. There are Nuns, Brothers and Priests who unite themselves to the work of the Fraternity by their prayers. Presently we have four members who are prisoners in different parts of the country, and while they cannot assist at the Traditional Mass, still do their part in praying from their cells for the growth of the Traditional Mass throughout the world.

Father James Fryar, FSSP

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Ah, now our threads are beginning to come together and the future pattern begins to emerge. Unknown to me that pattern began to take a more definite shape on the day in June when I was received into the Church by Fr. Kenneth Fryar, FSSP, Pastor of Mater Misericordiae Mission who was assisted by his brother, Fr. James Fryar, FSSP, who was on a short visit from his, then, Apostolate in Pennsylvania. (A coincidence? I think not.) This day had begun the December before when I read that that there was now an Indult Mass here in Phoenix and at last, I had a chance to keep my promise to attend. I did and I was here to stay. But here's where things take an unexpected turn. Not long after my being received in the Church I was talking in email to the Pennsylvania Fr. Fryar who by then had returned to his home Apostolate and I told him that I had been especially moved by the description of his making his own Chalice in his DVD, *Fr. Fryar's First Mass* and as an almost throw-away comment, I told him of reading *In This House of Brede* and how wonderful I thought it would be to be in a convent making vestments. "He immediately wrote back and said something to the effect of, "Well, why don't you?" "Whoa there, Father," I thought to myself. "Here I am in the Church less than two months and you want me to join a convent?" Not quite. His next email clarified that he meant why didn't I try to make vestments. "Imagine Mass," he wrote, "being celebrated in the vestments you made." Whew! That was almost more than I could take in and almost more than I could imagine. But he then went on to say that his brother had made vestments before and could probably help me. Well, I talked to his brother and he could and he would and he did. So here we are back at where the story begins, where my adventure begins, where making the vestments begins.

But let's not get too far ahead. It hasn't always been that easy. We've all heard the saying that no good deed goes unpunished and for anyone who's ever tried to make a decent looking burse it soon becomes obvious that burse-making is definitely the punishment for the good deed of vestment making. But to quote Fr. Fryar again, "It just takes time. It's a job that you cannot rush." In the matter of the burse, how true. And that goes, too, for the time I spent learning how to do the vestments right and according to Fraternity standards, which are high. And it goes without saying that there is always the challenge of financing the materials for the vestments. Still, I'm actually tempted to put the latter under *Rewards*. It seems that each time I get to the point where I've decided that a new project has to be put on hold that's when a bonus comes through at work or someone comes up and makes a surprise donation to the "cause," or that someone else begins a conversation by saying, "I found these old trims I've had forever but I don't need them. Can you use them for anything?" It's often hard to say "Yes" because of the lump in my throat. These rewards indeed help to make it even more worthwhile

“IN THE MASS, EVERYTHING MATTERS.”

“In the Mass, everything matters.” This is a quote from a 2005 talk by Fr. Calvin Goodwin, FSSP. I’m sure that many of you know him. But more than just a quote, it assures that for every Catholic, for everybody who wants to take part, there will be an opportunity in the Holy Mass to do so. Although I first heard a recording of Fr. Goodwin’s talk almost a year after I started sewing vestments, it was one of those “Aha!” moments when someone else says something that causes many various threads of thought (pun intended) to come together. But let me go back a while before that and introduce to you my “Adventures in Traditional Roman Vestments” or at least to the adventures that led me to it. To me it’s nothing short of a miracle that through one of the things that I most enjoy, sewing, I can, in a small way, contribute to the Mass where everything matters.

Let me begin by saying that I am a fairly recent convert to the Church. It was only a little over a year ago in June of 2006 that I was received into the Church. I had first seriously considered joining some 30 years ago but as with so many others, I was turned off by Novus Ordo and turned away. This was not the Church I had read about in my History books nor were these the words, the chant and the liturgy to which I had been drawn through my Latin studies. Although I did finish the series of what was then called catechism classes, I knew that it was not the time for me to make promises I wouldn’t keep. However, I did make myself one promise and that was if I could ever again find the Latin Mass, then I’d be back. I also kept with me through all those years two beloved friends, St. Joseph and St. Jude. I felt that they were good people to talk to and while my unconverted mind couldn’t explain it, I just felt better knowing that they were nearby and available

About this same time I read a book, *In This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden, which is about a convent of Benedictine nuns in England. To say that this book is a well-read favorite is to understate, but to the point for this article is that one of the activities of the nuns was vestment making. From the first time I read the book and at each time I reread it, I would think, “Wow, if I could only be there in that vestment room I would be the happiest person on God’s green earth.” Of course, this thought was tempered by the fact that I was a non-Catholic, married woman, but hey! A girl can dream. And little could I know that while it may have taken a quarter of a century for at least half of that dream to come true, I’m sure that St. Joseph and St. Jude were talking it over, plotting and making sure that that I was getting nudges in the right direction.

A Journey of Faith

In our early years as home schooling parents, we received many questions and concerns from others about academics and whether or not the children were involved in social activities. At first we struggled to supply answers with any confidence. The years have literally flown by and I find myself looking back over the last fourteen of them, realizing that God’s hand has been guiding us through every step of what has been a journey of faith.

Initially our reason for home schooling was mostly academic. We took our son out of Catholic school early in second grade and subsequently compiled our own curriculum based on orthodox Catholic and Christian books. We worked one on one with the children every day teaching and grading each subject. We soon found it to be an immediate opportunity to discuss important issues, opinions, share ideas, facts, answer any questions and pray together EVERY day. These moments have been precious ones and such gifts to both our children and to us. It also did not take us long to realize we were learning from the students! When this happens, there is a loving and caring that happens between the parent and the child that no teacher can have.

Over time we found it easier and easier to answer the questions about the socialization topic. Most people equate socialization with belonging to a club, team or organization. While this is partially true, it has more to do with maturity and how you handle yourself in a social situation. In a home school setting, children learn to interact with others of various ages with different mental and physical capabilities. This cultivates thinking and organizational skills as well as virtues such as patience and understanding. Simply put...working, playing and praying well together fosters good social skills, which are also important to virtuous living. Intertwined with all of this is the necessity of teaching children manners, discipline, instilling in them moral, ethical and religious ideas based on the teachings of the Catholic Church.

I suppose by now you are wondering what I meant by a “journey of faith”! Well, most of the reasons we initially came to home school are not really the reasons anymore. The academics are extremely important, so please do not misunderstand my statement. We must help prepare our children to become strong independent people so they may raise their families, be able to support them and teach their children some day. What we are really doing here is nurturing truly faith-filled Catholic people so that they may learn to know, love and serve God well in this world. It really does not matter what occupation you are called to do in this world as long as you are seeking to do God’s will. If we are able to achieve this by the mercy of God and His abundant **graces**, I believe we will have accomplished something great for His kingdom. I believe we were led to home school and through this journey of faith, God will sanctify us.

Home Schooling Mother, Omaha

CONTEMPLATIONS ON THE PRIESTHOOD.

By St John Chrysostom

"For the priestly office is indeed discharged on earth ,but it ranks amongst heavenly ordinances; and very naturally so :for neither man, nor angel, nor archangel, nor any other created power, but the Paraclete Himself, instituted this vocation, and persuaded men while still abiding in the flesh to represent the ministry of angels. Wherefore the consecrated priest ought to be as pure as if he were standing in the heavens themselves in the midst of those powers." (p46,-Vol IX,NPNF).

(After referring to Elijah on Mt Carmel)... "There stands the priest, not bringing down fire from Heaven, but the Holy Spirit:and he makes prolonged supplication, not that some flame sent down from Heaven may consume the offerings, but that grace descending on the sacrifice may thereby enlighten the souls of all, and render them more (refined) than silver purified by fire. Who can despise this most awful mystery, unless he is stark mad and senseless?" (p47,IBID).

"...and what priests do here below God ratifies above,and the Master confirms the sentence of His servants. ...For indeed what is it but all manner of heavenly authority which He has given them when He says,'Whose sins you remit they are remitted,and whose sins you retain they are retained.' What authority could be greater than this? 'The Father has committed all judgment to the Son'. But I see it all put into the hands of these men by the Son."(IBID)

"...when one is required to preside over the Church, and be entrusted with the care of so many souls, the whole female sex must retire before the magnitude of the task,and the majority of men also;..."(p40,IBID).

"I know my own soul, how feeble and puny it is: I know the magnitude of this ministry, and the great difficulty of the work; for more stormy billows vex the soul of the priest than the gales which disturb the sea." (p.49, IBID).

"The divine law indeed has excluded women from this ministry, but they endeavor to thrust themselves into it; and since they can effect nothing of themselves, they do all through the agency of others..."(p.49,IBID).

"And all men are ready to pass judgment on the priest as if he was not a being clothed with flesh, or one who inherited a human nature..."(p.52,IBID).

"For there are many other qualities, Basil, besides those already mentioned, which the priest ought to have, but which I do not possess: and above all, this one:-his soul ought to be thoroughly purged from any lust after the office: for if he happens to have a natural inclination for this dignity, as soon as he attains it a stronger flame is kindled, and the man being taken completely captive will endure innumerable evils in order to keep a secure hold upon it, even to the extent of using flattery, or submitting to something base and ignoble..."(p.50,IBID).

"But I am of (the) opinion one ought to exercise so much caution in the matter, as to shun the burden of the office," (IBID).

Dear Confraternity Members,

This reflection on the awesome responsibilities of the Priesthood should incite our zeal, love and devotion for our Priests. We should be thankful every moment for their generosity in administering the Sacraments which lead us to eternal life.