

YOUTH MINISTRY QUESTIONS – PART TWO

6. Why would women and girls wear lace or hats on their heads during Mass?

In Judaism it was the custom to cover one's head in the presence of the Lord out of humility and reverence. The men and women both covered their heads. In the church the custom became that women covered their heads out of modesty and humility while the men stopped covering their heads except for the clergy. That is why the Bishops wear zucchetos (small round purple caps, note the Pope's is white) and Mitres and the priests would wear black zucchetos and baretas. This practice for priests remains in the Tridentine Rite but is rare in the new liturgy.

7. How do we know God is male and not female?

Jesus taught us one prayer and it begins Abba, which means Father. That is the Our Father. God is all things but we must use the language Jesus used and not alter it for our own convenience of the present cultural issues.

8. Why is St. Michael called a saint when he's an archangel?

Saint means holy from the Latin Sanctus. Angels are holy therefore Michael the archangel and other archangels are referred to as Saints.

9. Why is the order of the Mass and all the things we do in the Mass the way they are?

During the centuries there have been many revisions in the Mass. At the Council of Trent the Mass was set in one form for the Latin Rite. This occurred in the 16th century. At Vatican II in the 1960's revisions were again made and these are now included in the new Roman Missal, the book the priest uses. In the future other changes could be made but certain essentials such as the Eucharistic Prayer or Consecration Prayer must always be included. A set form also promotes the participation of the laity.

10. Why do you need altar servers?

The altar servers have particular roles at Mass and it is a ministry of the church. They carry the cross, the candles, set up the altar, hold the book for the priest and take the sacred vessels away from the altar once they are purified. The priest would find this very difficult not to have a server although that sometimes does happen.