

lation between the essence of something and its adequate expression. This is especially true of Holy Mass.

Who is there that has not at some time experienced himself that a part of the very soul of the liturgy is missing when music truly worthy of the sacred action is lacking? It is true that the recited liturgy possesses grandeur and holiness, but even the most unmusical man will notice that it is quite a different thing when an *Alleluia*, a *Gloria* or a *Credo* is sung instead of spoken. Indeed only the truly inspired Christian is able to sing as St. Francis did in his *Canticle of the Sun*. He had “known” the content of his hymn for a long time, but something ineffable was required to stir him up in order that he could express what was within him in such a form that it would have the power to communicate his “inexpressible inspiration” to all that would hear it. Mere “manufactured” music does not possess this divine, scintillating spark, even if it has been commissioned by the highest authority. For this reason, the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI, in his address to the Italian diocesan commissions for liturgy and sacred art, in 1967, said:

The Church needs saints . . . but she also needs artists, competent and good artists; both the saint and the artist are witnesses of the living spirit of Christ. Our commission and our wishes are directed to you to give the Church new artists who will push forward and reveal the holiness of the Church.

IV

Finally, the question of the use of the vernacular in the liturgy must be judged by the canonists according to the will of the Second Vatican Council. Prof. Georg May says:

Article 36, #1 of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy formulates the principle: “Particular law remaining in force, the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites.” This sentence has imposed a command to preserve the Latin language. In contrast to the translation produced under the auspices of the German bishops, it must be observed that the official text of the document employs the subjunctive *servetur* and therefore expresses a command, not merely a recommendation. The Latin language must be preserved. In the future the Latin rites will continue to be moulded by the Latin language. The word *usus* clearly commands the actual employment of the Latin language and not simply the possibility of its being used. . . .