

MISSALE VETUSTUM (1962)

“Holiest & Highest Possession...”

Josef Cardinal Ratzinger: “The old rite should be granted much more generously to all those who desire it. **It’s impossible to see what could be dangerous or unacceptable about that.** A community is calling its very being into question when it suddenly declares that what until now was its holiest and highest possession is strictly forbidden, and when it makes the longing for it seem downright indecent. Can it be trusted any more about anything else? Won’t it proscribe tomorrow what it prescribes today?”
— Peter Seewald • “*Salt of the Earth*” (1996)

“One with herself inwardly...”

Peter Seewald: “The reauthorization of the 1962 Missal is often interpreted primarily as a concession to the Society of Saint Pius X.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: “That is just absolutely false! **It was important for me that the Church is one with herself inwardly, with her own past;** that what was previously holy to her is not somehow wrong now.”

— *Pope Benedict XVI “In His Own Words”* (2016)

“Continuity with the Church...”

(2003) *Josef Cardinal Ratzinger*: “I think it’s important to [...] **demonstrate the continuity of the Church.** We are today not another Church as 500 years ago; it’s always the same Church. And what is at one time holy for the Church is always holy for the Church, and is not in another time an impossible thing.”

“It behooves all of us...”

(2007) *Pope Benedict XVI*: “**There is no contradiction** between the two editions of the Roman Missal. In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture. What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful. **It behooves all of us** to preserve the riches which have developed in the Church’s faith and prayer...”

— *Pope Benedict XVI “Letter to the Catholic Bishops”* (7 July 2007)