



## CATECHESIS FOR HOSTS OF ORA DOMESTIC AND CHAPEL MASSES

*On Demeanor, Welcome, and Facilitating Confessions*

Hosting the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in one's home or a small chapel is a sacred privilege and a spiritual responsibility. In the Old Roman Apostolate (ORA), where many liturgies take place in intimate, non-parish settings, the host plays a critical role in preparing both the **space** and the **spirit** of the gathering.

Your home becomes, even if temporarily, a **domestic sanctuary**—a place where Christ truly comes. The tone you set through **demeanor**, **welcome**, and practical **facilitation of Confession** can significantly influence the spiritual benefit others receive.

### 1. Your Home as a House of God

When the Mass is offered in your space, it is no longer an ordinary room—it becomes a **sacred place**. As the Lord was born in a stable and made it holy, so He sanctifies any home that receives Him with reverence.

- Clean and prepare the area with care and simplicity.
- Arrange seating to encourage devotion and attentiveness.
- Remove or cover distracting secular items in the liturgical area.

The setting does not need to be elaborate—but it should be **intentional**, peaceful, and oriented toward prayer.

### 2. Demeanor: Teaching Reverence by Example

As host, your **demeanor** naturally shapes the atmosphere of the gathering. You are helping others step out of the everyday and into the sacred.

- Dress modestly and reverently, as though welcoming a King.
- Avoid idle chatter before and after Mass; maintain sacred silence or low tones.
- Refrain from rushing or multitasking during the liturgy—be recollected.
- Model gestures of devotion (kneeling, bowing, etc.) to guide others, especially newcomers.

This quiet witness fosters an environment where grace can be received with fewer distractions and greater interior openness.

### 3. Welcome: Hospitality as Apostolate

In small ORA gatherings, **every soul matters**—especially visitors or those returning to the Faith. The spirit of your welcome may be the first experience someone has of the Church's charity.

- Greet guests personally, if possible by name.
- Offer practical help: missals, chapel veils, seating, or brief explanations as needed.
- Avoid overwhelming new guests—be warm, but allow them space to observe.
- If suitable, provide refreshments or a moment for fellowship after Mass.

Continued...

A good welcome does not mean informality or chatter—it means others feel **respected, seen, and spiritually safe** in your home.

#### 4. Facilitating Confessions: Making Space for Grace

When available, Confession is a key part of preparation for Mass and Holy Communion. Hosts can assist by quietly supporting the logistics of this vital sacrament.

- **Confirm availability:** Ask the priest in advance when and how long he can hear Confessions.
- **Provide a suitable area:** Set aside a quiet, private space with two chairs or a kneeler and screen if possible.
- **Keep the area quiet:** Ensure silence is maintained nearby while Confessions are heard.
- **Offer help discreetly:** Provide a simple examination of conscience or let guests know Confession is available—without pressure.

Never interrupt the sacrament or discuss who has confessed. Protect both the **privacy** and the **sacredness** of the encounter between priest and penitent.

#### 5. The Hidden Apostolate of the Host

Your quiet work behind the scenes—sweeping a floor, setting up a crucifix, boiling the kettle, or preparing a place for grace—is a **true apostolate**. Like the faithful women who made ready the Upper Room, your hospitality makes possible the renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary in our day.

You are:

- Preparing a sanctuary.
- Modelling reverence.
- Extending charity.
- Supporting priest and people.
- Helping souls meet Christ.

#### In Summary

A faithful host of an ORA domestic Mass:

- ✓ Prepares the space with reverence.
- ✓ Models dignity and devotion in demeanor.
- ✓ Welcomes each soul as Christ Himself.
- ✓ Facilitates Confessions with quiet care.
- ✓ Supports the sacred work of the priest with humility and love.

**"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."**  
(Hebrews 13:2)