

mitted to the Bishop, is not meant to enable the celebrant to receive an alms, but so that it be received for the needs of any pious cause of the diocese.

• BERNABE ALONSO, O.P.

## ANTICIPATION OF LAUDS

Some years ago, there was a debate among priests whether Lauds could be advanced together with the Matins on the previous afternoon of the Office. At that time, many believed that Matins could be advanced but not Lauds. As the prohibition to advance Lauds appeared only in the *L'Osservatore Romano*, and not in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*, some authors now opine that both Matins and Lauds be prayed in advance. What is your opinion on the matter?

You are actually referring to a *declaration* of the Sacred Congregation of Rites dated 28 December 1960, which appeared in *L'Osservatore Romano*, 30 December 1960. According to this *declaration*:

a) anticipation of matins *in choir, in common* and *in private* is "technically and exclusively" permitted by No. 144 of the new code of rubrics;

b) No. 145 of the same new code "technically and exclusively stipulates that the recitation of lauds *in choir* and *in common* can take place only in the early morning, that is, without any anticipation; recitation *in private*, which also may not be anticipated, is fittingly performed during the same time of the morning".

Though this appeared only in *L'Osservatore Romano*, and did not, therefore, carry the force of an "official" answer to a doubt, nonetheless it was an acclamation given by a competent office, with this end in view: "lest uncertainty remain in a matter directly pertaining to the public prayer of the Church".

Personally I have no knowledge of authors, who, as you say, opine that both Matins and Lauds may be prayed in advance. In which case they would certainly be going against the spirit of that law in

the new core of rubrics of 1960, as we have just seen from the acclamation of the S.C.R., and also against the desires of Vatican II. The Constitution of the S. Liturgy declares: "because the purpose of the office is to sanctify the day, then traditional sequence of the hours is to be restored so that once again they may be genuinely related to the time of the day when they are prayed" (Art. 88). And by the venerable tradition of the universal Church, Lauds was originally the morning prayer and should be celebrated as such (Cf. Art. 89).

• P. DE MESA, O.P.

## ELEVATION OF HOST AND CHALICE AFTER CONSECRATION

**In the past, when masses were said with the celebrant's back to the people, during elevations the host and the chalice were raised above the head of the celebrant, so that the host and the chalice could be seen by the people. Now, that we celebrate mass facing the people, how high should the host and chalice be raised?**

As the consultant had observed, the host and the chalice were raised above the head of the celebrant for the people to see them. With the Mass said facing the people, the host and the chalice can be easily seen even without raising them too high.

• P. DE MESA, O.P.