

# **Eulogy for a Modernist**

He moderned in the rectory,  
With parishoners on the lawn;  
He moderned in the bulletin  
And he said, "There is no harm."

In the vestibule he moderned,  
And then up to the front;  
When he moderned from the pulpit  
The congregation bore the brunt.

To the servers well he moderned,\*\*  
And he didn't spare the choir;  
When they introduced the drums and group,  
We feared he'd gone haywire.

Down the altar steps he moderned  
For Communion in the hand;  
We asked him for his reasons;  
He just gushed, "It's simply grand."\*

Smiled amusedly at Confession,  
Scant penitence for him;  
We prayed we wouldn't hear him say  
"There's no such thing as sin."

If someone praised the former ways  
There'd be a fearsome frown;  
Yet he beamed and smiled while saying Mass  
All dressed up like a clown.

His advice about the Rosary,  
"Not those old things again!"  
He tried to snap the beads in half  
But he couldn't break the chain.

The Commandments were constraining  
"Not for the modern men."  
He tossed his head at so many things  
That were believed back then.

He tossed his head at Popes' decrees  
And what Councils did defend,  
And Church Fathers on the Scriptures  
Right up until the end.

He tossed his head at the words of saints;  
"God wants us to be free!"  
And now he's tossing in the flames of Hell  
For all eternity.

\*St. Thomas Aquinas says, "This Sacrament (the Eucharist).. is not touched by anything that is not consecrated ... The hands of the priest are consecrated in order to touch this Sacrament. Accordingly no other person has a right to touch it except in case of necessity, for example, if the Sacrament falls on the ground" (Summa Theologica 3a. 82, a.3). The Council of Trent declared that the custom of only the priest giving Communion to himself with his own hands is an Apostolic Tradition (s. 13, C. 8). Reportedly the Council of Rouen, 650 A.D. said, "Do not put the Eucharist in the hands of any layman or laywoman but only in their mouths."

\*\*Pope Benedict XIV wrote in the Encyclical '*Al latae Sunt*' of July 26, 1755, "Pope Gelasius in his 9th letter (chap. 26) to the Bishops of Lucania condemned the evil practice which had been introduced of women serving the priest at the celebration of Mass. Since this abuse had spread to the Greeks, Innocent IV strictly forbade it in his letter to the bishop of Tusculum: 'Women should not dare to serve at the altar; they should be altogether refused this ministry.' We too have forbidden this practice in the same words in our oft-repeated constitution '*Etsi Pastoralis*, sect. 6, no. 21." (sec. 29).

Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum --