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The Weight of the Mass



THE WEIGHT OF THE DAILY MASS

From the Catholic Society of Evangelists Newsletter – August 1999
The following true story was related to Sr. Mary Veronica Murphy by an elderly nun who heard it from the lips of the late Rev. Father Stanislaus SS. CC.

One day many years ago, in a little town in Luxembourg, a Captain of the Forest Guards was in a deep conversation with the butcher when an elderly woman entered the shop. She had come to beg for a little meat but had no money. The Captain was amused at the woman and the butcher.

“Only a little meat, but how much are you going to give her?” He wondered. “I am sorry I have no money but I will hear Mass for you,” the woman told the butcher. But the butcher and the Captain were indifferent about religion, so they at once began to scoff at the old woman’s idea.

“All right then,” said the butcher. “You go and hear Mass for me and when you come back I will give you as much as the Mass is worth.”

The woman left the shop and returned later. She approached the counter and the butcher said, “All right then, we will see.” He took a slip of paper and wrote on it “I heard a Mass for you.” He placed the paper on the scales and a tiny bone on the other side, but nothing happened.

Next he placed a piece of meat instead of the bone, but still the paper proved heavier. Both men were beginning to feel ashamed of their mockery but continued their game.

A large piece of meat was placed on the balance, but still the paper held its own. The butcher, exasperated, examined the scales but found that they were all right.

“What do you want, my good woman? Must I give you a whole leg of mutton?”

At this he placed the leg of mutton on the balance, but the paper still outweighed the meat.

A larger piece of meat was put on, but again the weight remained on the side of the paper. This, so impressed the butcher that he was converted and promised to give the woman her daily ration of meat.

As for the Captain, he left the shop a changed man and an ardent lover of daily Mass. Two of his sons became priests, one a Jesuit and the other a Father of the Sacred Heart. Father Stanislaus finished the story by saying, “I am from the Religious of the Sacred Heart and the Captain was my father.”

From the incident the Captain became a daily Mass attendant and his children were trained to follow his example. Later when his sons became priest, he advised them to say Mass well every day and never miss The Sacrifice of the Holy Mass through any fault of their own.

If you like this story, please share it with someone...

Remember too that “A Holy Mass a day keeps the Devil away.”
God bless,

P.S. “God’s timing is always right – wait patiently for Him.”