

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

by Fr. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

The way we dress says something about what we think and value. It also influences how we behave and feel. That our culture has become so casual about everything says something about us. It seems nothing is important anymore! But that is not true.

God and His House are important. Our being present in His house should express this importance: by our actions, our reverence, our silence, and most importantly, by the way we dress. At the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the King of kings and the Lord of lords is made present on the altar, and our dress should reflect this, particularly if we are going to approach the communion rail to receive Him. We should avoid the excesses on the one hand of thinking we should wear tuxedos and formal gowns, and on the other, the extreme of wearing casual clothes suited for the beach or working in the garden. We should wear decent semi-formal attire that covers the body without being too revealing. In other words, we should dress modestly for Mass.

If you think dress codes are a thing of the past, please consider that the Vatican has a dress code and it is strictly enforced.

It prohibits anyone from entering who is wearing:

- Shorts/skirts above the knee
- Sleeveless shirts
- Shirts exposing the navel
- Shirts for women that expose cleavage.