

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING

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## *Fear of the Lord*

A reader writes: "Dear Father, Recently I attended a few masses in the city and I have been shocked by the lack of respect toward the Blessed Sacrament by some people. On one recent Sunday, I watched the mass on TV and during the homily the celebrant only talked about "Do not be afraid!" and "our loving Father". He never mentioned the 'Almighty God' nor Jesus as 'Lord' and 'Savior'. No wonder that, according to a survey, 79% of Catholics believe that there are several ways to salvation other than through Jesus Christ. On another Sunday, I attended mass at St. Anthony's and during the homily you presented both sides of the story. Thank you, Father, for preaching the whole Gospel truth."

Thanks for observing. Universal salvation is heresy embraced also by many Catholics. John Paul II and Benedict XVI have repeatedly chastised theologians who relativize the unique mission of Christ, the only "mediator between God and man" and of His Church. Many people also think they have to do nothing to be saved, forgetting that we must all try to enter through the "narrow door."

Indifference toward God is also shown by bad manners in church. Some people wouldn't dare to act in front of public figures the way they do in church. The security guards would quickly escort them away!

Silence is not just absence of sound. Silence produces listening and listening produces silence. In church we become aware of God's presence and are transformed by Him. If we keep quiet, we give God a chance to speak. Every day we are deafened by the noise of worldly things. As with an orchestra, we have to be silent and be tuned to God, and then our hymns of praise resonate with the heavenly hosts of angels and saints.