

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York 14202

**Traditionally Speaking** by S. Casarotto 11/1/09

## **ALL YOU PEOPLE CLAP YOUR HANDS** (Ps. 47,1 )

“Whenever applause breaks out in the liturgy because of some human achievement, it is a sure sign that the essence of liturgy has totally disappeared and been replaced by a kind of religious entertainment. Such attractiveness fades quickly – it cannot compete in the market of leisure pursuits, incorporating as it increasingly does various forms of religious titillation. I myself have experienced the replacing of the penitential rite by a dance performance, which, needless to say, received a round of applause. Could there be anything father removed from true penitence? Liturgy can only attract people when it looks, not at itself, but at God, when it allows Him to enter and act. Then something truly unique happens beyond competition, and people have a sense that more has taken place than a recreational activity” (Card. Joseph Ratzinger, *The Spirit of the Liturgy* pp. 198-199).

If you ever attended services in a Black church, you noticed the loud singing, the Alleluias, the clapping of hands and the rhythmic Amen as a response to the preacher’s talk. Catholics, at least White Catholics, don’t do that. They never did. Or did they?

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, Etheria, a pilgrim to the Holy Land, mentions that, when the bishop and priests were giving the homily, people were occasionally breaking into applause. She also mentioned that occasionally they also booed the preacher!

**TRUTH** - During Jesus’ trial, Pontius Pilate mockingly asked him: “*Truth? What is truth?*” He was standing in front of the one who proclaimed to the world, “I am the truth!”

We are bombarded with information and misinformation by TV, radio, the Internet, newspapers, latest survey. The Enlightenment led us to believe that science has or will have all the answers. And so man is deceiving himself, claiming that he knows the truth while there is no objective and permanent truth!

We can not know the truth by ourselves. “*Truth - which is itself a gift, in the same way as charity – is greater than we are, as St. Augustine teaches. Likewise the truth of ourselves, of our personal conscience, is first of all given to us. In every cognitive process, truth is not something that we produce, it is always found, or better, received. Truth, like love, ‘is neither planned nor willed, but somehow imposes itself upon human beings.’*” (Benedict XVI)

“Knowledge is the conformity of the object and the intellect.”

(*Spanish-Muslim physician and philosopher Averroës, 1126–1198*)