

An Eastern Catholic Perspective on Being True to Tradition:

The Eastern Catholic equivalent to Roman Catholic liturgical abuse is the issue of 'Latinisation'. Those of us who are Catholics of the Eastern Tradition will understand what this means, but for those reading this from a Latin (or Roman Catholic or Western) perspective, it is important to understand that this is no insult to the venerable Latin Tradition. It is merely to say that what properly belongs to the ancient Traditions of one Church's life should not be co-opted by the other in what ends up being a pale imitation of the other's practice. Examples of this would be Eastern Catholics venerating the Stations of the Cross during Lent, or saying the Rosary in public, or using Western-style hymns. There is obviously no problem with any of these forms of worship in their own right, but when taken on by Eastern Catholics of an ancient, apostolic Rite who have their own beautiful, noble, and profoundly meaningful, forms - they are not only pointless, but can even be destructive.

There was a time when Eastern Catholic Churches lived on the defensive. In many parts of the world, they were viewed with suspicion – often by the very hierarchs (read: Roman Catholic bishops) that should have been caring for and encouraging them. As a result, in certain jurisdictions, Eastern parishes sometimes went out of the way to look as 'Roman' as possible, lest they be thought of as less than loyal to the See of Peter. The consequences of this can still be seen today, in some of the Eastern (Byzantine) Catholic parishes in the Eastern United States, for example, where they are hardly distinguishable from

