

They are turned casually backwards in their pews, arms spread out and relaxed over the backs of the benches, laughing and chortling with the people behind them, or waving frantically to people 15 rows behind them who are themselves too busy talking to notice the waving hand now attended by a calling voice! In the meanwhile, the ever present "ministers-of-this-that-and-the-other" running breathlessly between aisles and pews to greet this one, or to briefly sit and talk with that one – whatever redounds most to the notability of their benign and indispensable presence ...

Everyone is greeted ... except God. So many are desperately vying to call attention to *themselves* ... except God. He's shy in this way.

In God we Trust

In fact, if we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that the atmosphere, by and large, is not unlike what we encounter in our banks as we await our disbursements and find acquaintances in the lobby. The difference is that the bank will not tolerate the loitering and we are decidedly less boisterous in our comportment. We could even say that we experience a more subdued and quiet sense of reverence in the bank before money than we do in Church before God.

To carry the analogy a bit further, we find that most, in fact, have not come to Church to receive the *Deposit* of Faith at all; rather, for a *Withdrawal* ... a withdrawal from the "Treasury of the Merits of the Saints" – and from that curious gold box so carefully (and so ... revealingly) segregated from the "worship space" ...

The analogy is not altogether unfitting. Christ Himself said that, "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Saint Luke 12.34)

Are you making a deposit today, or a withdrawal?

Where will you go for it?

And will you know the difference when you get there?

God's House is not a social parlor, or a parade of inflated personalities. It is a House of Prayer.

Pray.



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