

Tradition vs. Traditionalism

Tradition enriches
the past;
traditionalism
freezes it.

Tradition develops
the past;
traditionalism
embalms it.

Tradition contributes
and stimulates;
traditionalism confines
and stifles.

Tradition is bold
and daring;
traditionalism is fearful
and cautious.

Tradition is
creative;
traditionalism is
unimaginative.

Tradition transforms
the past;
traditionalism just
passes it along.

Tradition brings the past
into the future;
traditionalism
leaves it alone.

Tradition reckons
with the unknown;
traditionalism merely
repeats the known.

Tradition deals with
uncertainty;
traditionalism wants
to be dead sure.
(And so it is:
sure and dead.)

Tradition welcomes
adventure;
traditionalism never
leaves the house.

Tradition promises
excitement;
traditionalism
is rather dull.

Tradition gazes back
in order to go forward;
traditionalism looks back
and stays there.

When you are involved,
therefore, in a
community's dynamism,
you are advancing
a tradition.
If you stand aloof,
however,
from its vital flow,
you are guilty of
traditionalism.

© Msgr. Walter Niebrzydowski
August 23, 1988
Fr-Walter@nyc.rr.com
www.fatherwaltersparish.org