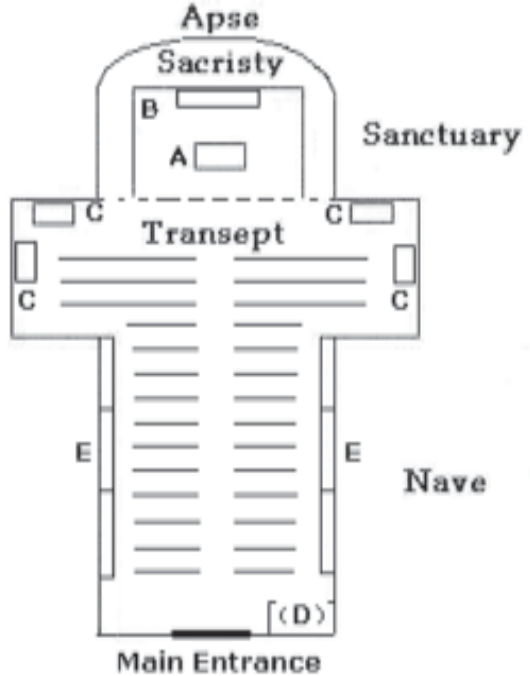


FLOOR PLAN OF A CHURCH IN THE SHAPE OF A LATIN CROSS

- Sanctuary**
- A** - Main Altar
 - B** - Altar, Retable, and Tabernacle ⁶
 - Seats for the Celebrant and Ministers ⁷

- Dotted line — — —
- Communion-rail ⁸

- Nave**
- C** - Minor Altars
 - Ambo ⁹
 - D** - Baptistry ¹⁰
 - E** - Confessionals ¹⁰
 - Pews (horizontal lines)
 - Organ & Choir Loft ¹¹



✠ "The **sanctuary** is the place where the altar stands, where the word of God is proclaimed, and where the priest, the deacon, and the other ministers exercise their offices. It should suitably be marked off from the body of the church either by its being somewhat elevated or by a particular structure and ornamentation. It should, however, be large enough to allow the Eucharist to be celebrated properly and easily seen."¹²

6. Altar, Retable, and Tabernacle as they were located in the churches prior to the Second Vatican Council: see picture on p. 186.

7. The location in the sanctuary for the seats of the celebrating priest & ministers varies with the church's architecture. The celebrant's chair ought to stand as a symbol of his function of presiding over the assembly and of directing prayer. "Any appearance of a throne is to be avoided." GIRM [271] 310, cf. Sacred Congregation of Rites, Instruction *Inter Oecumenici*, On the orderly carrying out of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 26 September 1964, no 92: AAS 56 (1964), p. 898.

8. Communion-rail: low railing installed at the front of the sanctuary for the communion of the faithful; also see Part Five, Catholic Glossary.

9. In the old churches, the ambo was mounted on a wall of the nave several feet above the floor, with a little roof overhead to help carry the priest's voice throughout the church. Today, in most churches, the ambo is located at floor level in the sanctuary.

10. Traditionally, the baptistry was located at the back of the church, and the confessionals on the sides of the nave. Now, their places vary with the church's design.

11. The organ & the choir often shared a loft located over the church's main entrance. Now, their location varies, but it may never be in the sanctuary. See Part Five, Quest.121

12. GIRM [258] 295, cf. Sacred Congregation of Rites, Instruction *Inter Oecumenici*, On the orderly carrying out of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 26 September 1964, no. 91: AAS 56 (1964), p. 898 (bold face added).