

like chanting being kept up during the whole ceremony. This service ended, the Chapter moves in procession to receive the blessing of the sacred relics, during which they all kneel in the cen-

tral space, surrounded by many devout worshippers.

For Good Friday the churches are stripped bare of all ornament, excepting where the scene of the Crucifixion is represented. During the Mass of the Presanctified the services of the "Discovery" and "Adoration" of the cross are performed, after which, at St. Peter's, the Chapter moves in solemn procession to close the Holy Sepulchre. From twelve to three the service of the "Tre Ore" is observed with much devotion.

The services of Easter eve are not of any importance, and it is not explained why the bells are rung, the organ played again at High Pontifical Mass, and the altars decked in white and brilliantly lighted, accompanied by every indication of joy, so many hours before the resurrection on Easter morn.

A quaint custom, and one which is rather appealing, is performed every Easter eve in Rome and throughout the villages and country parts of Italy. It is the



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PRIEST AND ACOLYTE.

"Priests in their cassocks and white surplices, bareheaded except for the little black cap, pass and re-pass through the streets, in and out of every house, each with his acolyte bearing holy water."