

Tridentine Community News

April 30, 2006

Latin Mass Organizations

Are you interested in learning more about the Latin Mass movement? Want to learn some history, see what's happening around the world, and meet some like-minded people? You can do that by joining one of the organizations devoted to promoting the Latin Mass.

The Latin Liturgy Association



The first such organization we will discuss is the Latin Liturgy Association. Founded in 1975 during the pre-Indult era in North America, the initial objective of the LLA was to promote the celebration of the Novus Ordo Mass in Latin. Today the LLA promotes both Novus Ordo and Tridentine Masses.

The LLA provides three key services: First, it publishes a newsletter. In the pre-Internet days, this newsletter was the primary source of Latin Mass news in the English world. It came out once every month or two, and was chock full of reports of special Masses and services that had occurred or were about to be held. In today's world of rapidly spread electronic news, the LLA Newsletter is published less frequently, but continues to report on events that other news sources do not mention, such as unique musical events or elaborate Latin wedding and requiem Masses.

Second, the LLA publishes what was the first directory of Latin Masses in the U.S. and Canada. Even today, when numerous web sites offer directories of Tridentine Masses, the LLA's is the only directory that lists Novus Ordo Latin as well as Tridentine Mass locations. It is available on-line at www.latinliturgy.com. Unfortunately, in recent years, this directory has suffered from infrequent updating, thus some of its information is incomplete or inaccurate.

Third, the LLA holds a semi-annual convention featuring talks, tours, chant classes, and a showcase of impressive liturgies. Several members of St. Joseph, St. Josaphat, and St. Michael Churches regularly attend the LLA conventions, and indeed, some are already registered for the next one, which will be held July 14-16, 2006 in St. Louis. Registration information is at the aforementioned web site.

The Association for Latin Liturgy

The British sister organization of the LLA is the ALL. They are notable for publishing missals, books, and recordings pertinent to the Novus Ordo Latin Mass; holding annual conventions; and most significantly, publishing a detailed

directory of Tridentine and Novus Ordo Latin Masses in the U.K. This directory actually "grades" Novus Ordo Latin Masses with an A, B, or C, depending on the quantity of Latin employed. Because there are so many Latin Masses in England, and especially in Metropolitan London, this grading system is a useful guide in helping visitors distinguishing the great from the merely good. Visit www.latin-liturgy.org.uk

The Latin Mass Society

Also based in the U.K., the LMS is solely devoted to promoting the Tridentine Mass. With a full time office, a professionally published glossy magazine, and a seemingly sizable budget for advertising, the LMS is a fount of information on the Tridentine liturgy, both in and out of Britain.



The LMS runs regular display ads in British diocesan and independent Catholic newspapers, listing the schedules for Tridentine Masses in London and elsewhere. Their magazine, "Mass of Ages", is widely available in parish and diocesan bookshops. Their web site, www.latin-mass-society.org, is a comprehensive source of information from everything from Vatican documents, to rubrics, to Mass schedules.

Una Voce

Founded in 1964, the oldest organization involved in promoting the Tridentine Mass is the International Una Voce Federation, which takes its name from the concluding words in the Preface(s) of the Mass, "with one voice."

Una Voce strives to obtain permission for, and promote, Tridentine Indult Masses. It operates as an association of somewhat autonomous local chapters. The first serious effort at establishing Una Voce in North America came in 1985, when organizers of one of the first Indult Masses, at Mission San Juan Capistrano in California, established "The Traditional Mass Society" as the U.S. arm of Una Voce. For a while this organization sent out frequent newsletters, primarily soliciting signatures for a petition for a "Traditional Ordinariate", today more commonly referred to as a Personal Apostolic Administration. The idea is for the Vatican to appoint a Bishop specifically for those Catholics loyal to the traditional sacraments. This topic is much discussed even today, and is under serious consideration by our Holy Father.

The Traditional Mass Society eventually was reborn as Una Voce America, and is currently led by a group of people from New York state. A newsletter is published periodically. More information is at www.unavoce.org