

Tridentine Community News

August 6, 2006

C.I.E.L.

In 1994, a group of students in France formed an organization devoted to academic studies of the Tridentine Mass. Known as the "Centre International d'Études Liturgiques," or the International Centre for Liturgical Studies, C.I.E.L. has evolved from being an association for scholars into one of more general appeal to those who love the Classical Roman Rite.

While a small organization, C.I.E.L. has attracted attention due to the involvement of several prominent figures in the Church. In 2003, Francis Cardinal George, the Archbishop of Chicago, wrote a preface to a collection of papers published by C.I.E.L., in which he elaborated on the beauty and appropriateness of the Traditional Latin Mass for our day and age. He went on to express his desire that the Tridentine Mass be "better accepted," possibly the first time that a U.S. Cardinal has made such a statement.

In 2004, Jorge Cardinal Medina Estévez delivered an address on the notion of participation in the liturgy. In 2005, he also celebrated a Pontifical Mass for C.I.E.L. in Rome.

Msgr. Michael Schmitz, North American Provincial for the Institute of Christ the King, serves as C.I.E.L.'s academic adviser.

Convention in England in September

It should come as no surprise to the readers of this column that one of the most active chapters of C.I.E.L. is the British operation. C.I.E.L.-U.K. has hosted an annual convention for several years, usually in a London church. This year, they will be hosting the International C.I.E.L. convention in the university town of Oxford, Wednesday-Saturday, September 13-16, 2006. (Side note: This leaves visitors the opportunity to experience a Latin Mass in London on Sunday.)

Several prominent speakers have already been lined up, including Dr. Alcuin Reid, the man responsible for updating the Fortescue rubrics book and author of several books on the Mass; Fr. Michael Lang, a priest of London's Brompton Oratory and author of the much-discussed book, "Turning Towards The Lord" (a treatise on the theology of celebrating Holy Mass *ad orientem*, or facing the same way as the people); and Professor Eamon Duffy, a Church historian and author.

But C.I.E.L. has scored a major coup with one guest in particular: Attending the conference, and celebrating a Pontifical Solemn Mass on Saturday, September 16, will be Dario Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos, the President of the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei, and the most powerful person in the Church after the Holy Father on matters pertaining to the Tridentine Mass. In this author's recollection, this is the first instance in which Cardinal Castrillón has attended any public Tridentine Mass conference outside of Rome.

As a point of interest, attendees to the C.I.E.L. conference have the option of staying in housing at Oxford University. Rarely does one have the opportunity to experience such an environment without being a student of the school. For more information about the conference, visit www.ciel2006.org.

The New Liturgical Movement

One of the staunchest advocates of C.I.E.L. is one of the most energetic people recently to emerge on the Latin Mass scene: Mr. Shawn Tribe, head of C.I.E.L.-Canada. Based in London, Ontario, Shawn is also the co-organizer of the London indult Tridentine Mass at St. Joseph Hospital Chapel.

Shawn has put together one of the most intriguing web sites around for those interested in the Latin Mass: The New Liturgical Movement (<http://thenewliturgicalmovement.blogspot.com>).

Taking the format of a blog, the NLM is updated several times per week with news from two areas: 1) The Tridentine Mass movement, which needs no introduction here; and 2) The "Reform of the Reform" movement, dealing with efforts to restore reverence, traditional music, Latin, and *ad orientem* celebration to the Novus Ordo.

The NLM takes its name from the "Liturgical Movement" of the mid-20th century, which advocated more simply designed sanctuaries and congregational participation in reciting the responses at Mass. Shawn believes that under our present Holy Father, we are entering a new age of liturgical development, one re-focused on immemorial custom and authentic, non-trendy theology.

Readers of the NLM soon realize that since the election of Pope Benedict XVI, news on liturgical matters has been accelerating. One on the one hand, speculation is rising from both conservative and liberal liturgical camps, including Vatican leaders, that the Holy Father may soon issue broader permission for priests to celebrate the Tridentine Mass. On the other hand, His Holiness is making more frequent statements indicating his desire that the Novus Ordo be celebrated with more decorum and better music. The NLM is there to track all of these developments for us.

Shawn's prolific coverage of news events has attracted international attention. He also provides links to often obscure magazines, vendors, and religious communities that support traditional liturgy. (Did you know that an ornate Novus Ordo Latin Altar Missal has recently been published?) His focus on facts and balanced coverage has given him credibility that other news sources often lack. As a result, he has rapidly become "connected" to authorities throughout the Church. The NLM has attracted some energetic co-contributors: For instance, one gentleman is a budding architect who submits drawings for new, traditional church designs. How encouraging to hear for the future of the Church - We live in interesting times!

