

Tridentine Community News

October 15, 2006

Two Solemn High Masses in Two Weeks

Next Sunday, October 22, we are privileged to have one of the leaders of the international Latin Mass movement visit metropolitan Detroit: Fr. Josef Bisig, co-founder of the Fraternity of St. Peter will celebrate a Solemn High Mass at St. Michael's at 2:00 PM. This marks the second time that Fr. Bisig has visited the area, the first being for Christmas Day Mass at St. Michael's in 2004. The present occasion is the 15th Anniversary of the Diocese of London's Indult Mass in Windsor. This will be a cross-border effort: the music will be led by St. Josaphat organist Wassim Sarweh and members of the St. Josaphat choir.

The following Sunday, October 29, at 9:30 AM, St. Josaphat commemorates the Second Anniversary of its own indult Mass with a Solemn High Mass to be celebrated by pastor Fr. Mark Borkowski. Holy Mass will be followed by our autumn fundraising brunch. Every penny raised by ticket sales to this event funds the continuing upkeep of the church; all of the food and supplies have been donated by members of the Tridentine Community. Those of you who have been around since the beginning have certainly witnessed evidence of the commitment of Fr. Mark and the parish council to restore the church and properly outfit it with every appropriate appurtenance for the Tridentine Mass. Few Latin Mass communities in North America can boast of such a beautiful edifice in which to give glory to God.

It is sobering to remind ourselves that it was only in 2003 that the first Solemn High Mass in metro Detroit since 1970 was held, at St. Michael's. Now it is possible to have multiple ones within a month. We have come a long way in three years. *Deo gratias!*

Organ Project Update

The organ rebuilders with whom we have been discussing our proposed project all have one question in common: What weight can the St. Josaphat choir loft bear? Heaven forbid we would obtain an organ that was too heavy for the building to hold.

Problem: St. Josaphat was built in 1900. The original architectural plans cannot be found. The original architectural firm is long gone. Neither the parish, the Archdiocese, the city of Detroit, nor even the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library has any relevant records.

Little did we know that we have an expert in such matters right in our midst: St. Josaphat parishioner Peter von Buelow, Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan, is an expert at structural engineering! Peter graciously volunteered to perform a study of the loft, and has determined just what we can put up there. Armed with that information, we and our organ builder candidates are better able to assess potential instruments. As we have said before, we are taking our time to ensure that the best possible instrument is identified.

While inspecting the existing organ chamber, we also took the opportunity to examine up close the stained glass window that is blocked by the existing organ. Ideally, the replacement organ will be divided into two cases, permitting much of this lovely window



of the Crucifixion to be exposed and visible from the nave of the church. It should come as no surprise that the window is in need of restoration work, which will have to be conducted in conjunction with the organ project.

Also on the subject of the loft, the rather unsightly exhaust fan that is presently installed within one of the side windows in the loft will be removed. Appropriate stained glass to replace it will be commissioned.

New Altar Cloths Have Arrived

Those of you with sharp eyes will notice that the new altar cloth with green trim for the Sundays After Pentecost has recently been installed on the St. Josaphat high altar. Because so many donors responded generously to our request for funds, we were able to purchase two altar cloths, the second with purple trim for Advent and Lent. We now have three such cloths, including the original with gold trim. Thanks to all who contributed.

Refurbished Sedilla for St. Michael's

Several months ago, an original three-seat *sedilla* (priest's bench) was found hidden behind other items at St. Michael's. Unfortunately, it had fallen apart after years of disuse. An intrepid volunteer stepped forward to repair and reinforce the *sedilla*, a most welcome and functional addition to the sanctuary.

New Traditional Religious Institute Formed

On Friday, September 8, Dario Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos, President of the Ecclesia Dei Commission, announced that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI authorized the establishment of the Institute of the Good Shepherd, another association of priests devoted to the Traditional Mass and Sacraments. This group will be based in Bordeaux, France. Like the Fraternity of St. Peter in 1988, the IGS initially consists of priests and seminarians of the Society of St. Pius X who wished to reunite with Rome. Also like the FSSP, the IGS is under direct papal charter.

This development, in conjunction with other recent papal pronouncements urging a return to the use of chant and sacred polyphony in Holy Mass, has reignited speculation about a possible forthcoming "Universal Indult" for the Tridentine Mass. In his writings over the past two decades, Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly made clear his desire for a liberalization of permission for the Classical Roman Rite to be celebrated. He is now in a position to make such a ruling. Indeed, his advisors have pretty much all spoken, so at this point, it is really the Holy Father's decision alone. Let us pray that he makes this precious gift available to all Catholics once again.

Questions? Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org with your thoughts.