Tridentine Community News

July 29, 2007

The Motu City

Dates and times are yet to be firmed up, but the Tridentine Community News has learned that plans are afoot in <u>six</u> Archdiocese of Detroit parishes to start Tridentine Low Masses on weekdays. Seven if you include St. Josaphat's planned Monday evening Mass. More details when we have them.

The Rituále Románum

The official books for the Mass and all of the sacraments are issued Libreria Editrice Vaticana, the Holy See's publisher. The altar missal is called the Missále Románum. In the Classic Form of the Mass, this book contains the Ordinary of the Mass and all of the Propers, including the readings, for each day of the year. In the New Form, the readings are in a separate, three volume set called the Lectionárium. The English (New Form) version of these books are called the Sacramentary and the Lectionary, respectively.

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will (likely be delighted to) have to learn the new, "old" versions. Future editions of this column will contain descriptions of the Old Form sacraments to help familiarize you with their richness.

1962 And Only 1962

It is important to realize that the previous legislation governing the Old Form of the Mass, *Quattuor Abhinc Annos* and *Ecclésia Dei Adflícta*, specified that the 1962 editions of the liturgical books

were to be used. Nevertheless, in many Traditional Mass communities, older books are used. This is most noticeable when the altar servers recite the Confiteor before Holy Communion. The new Proprio Motu Summórum Pontíficum reiterates the requirement to use the '62 books. If we are going to voice our wishes that our New Form brethren "stick to the books," then so should we.

For several years, publishers have been reprinting 1961 editions of the *Missále Románum* and the *Rituále Románum*. While it is a little

puzzling that 1962 or even (unmodified) 1963 versions were not reprinted, the '61 editions are acceptable, as they have been edited to contain the minor variations imposed in '62.

The Vatican recently announced that they will (re)publish a complete set of 1962 liturgical books. The home page of the Vatican bookstore web site, www.paxbook.com, already lists several titles that are available. But be careful: Many are paperback study editions, not real liturgical books.

Supply and Demand

Interestingly, the New Form versions of the above books can be hard to find. For almost the entire decade of the 1990s, the 1975 edition of the New Rite Latin Altar Missal was out of print and unavailable from the Vatican, as they were anticipating publishing a revised version. That version did finally come out in 2000, but recently went out of print yet again. Thankfully, Midwest Theological Forum has published an approved version of the New Rite Latin Altar Missal that is both currently available and arguably artistically more appealing than the original Vatican edition.

The hardcover editions of the New Form *Rituále Románum* have also been out of print for a while. We suspect that the demand for New Form Latin Mass materials is substantially less than for Old Form versions, in part because they are more confusing. For example, different Propers are specified for sung vs. recited Masses. Plus, the 1974 *Graduále* has not yet been updated to reflect the (constantly amended) modern calendar of feasts. It is no surprise, therefore, that few Novus Ordo Latin Masses employ chanted Propers.

The Church has need of official books for many other purposes. For example, the Pontifical is a special book for use by bishops,



containing preparatory vesting prayers, the Ordinary of the Mass, and prayers of thanksgiving after Mass.

The form of sacraments such as Baptism, Penance, Marriage, and Anointing of the Sick, along with miscellaneous blessings such as Enrollment in the Brown Scapular (which community just employed), is contained in a book called the Rituále Románum, Roman or

Ritual, sometimes also titled the *Colléctio Rítuum*. Sometimes these books are available as a three volume set, to accommodate the sheer number of prayers they contain. For the Ordinary Form, the English version of this book is called the Book of Blessings.

The *Rituále* will have newfound importance beginning on September 14. Prior to the Motu Proprio *Summórum Pontíficum*, many if not most Tridentine indult communities were permitted to hold Mass, but not the other sacraments according to the old formulas. With that restriction removed, priests and the faithful