

# Tridentine Community News

October 7, 2007

## *Correction: Solemn High Mass on the 21<sup>st</sup>*

The Solemn High Anniversary Mass at Assumption Church – Windsor will be held on Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 PM, not on the 14<sup>th</sup>, as had been printed in the versions of this column distributed at St. Joseph and Sweetest Heart of Mary.

## *The First Daily Tridentine Mass in Our Region*

Assumption Grotto Church in Detroit has announced that its Monday through Saturday 7:30 AM Mass will henceforth be according to the Extraordinary Form.

## *Society for Catholic Liturgy Conference*

Thursday through Saturday, September 20-22, the Society for Catholic Liturgy held its annual conference, with the theme

“Benedict XVI and the Sacred Liturgy”, at the Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio. The Josephinum is the only seminary in the United States directly under the authority of Rome. While located in Columbus, it is not technically the Columbus Diocese’s seminary. It accepts seminarians from across the country.



The SCL Conference was originally exclusively concerned with proper celebration of the Novus Ordo. It was also primarily intended for members of the clergy, who still comprise approximately 40% of the attendance. In recent years, as it has become evident that Pope Benedict XVI wished to better integrate the Tridentine Mass into the life of the Church, the SCL has shifted towards a balanced discussion of both forms of Holy Mass.

Despite recent press citing the Josephinum administration as not being sympathetic towards the Extraordinary Form, the conference featured a keynote address by Dr. Alcuin Reid that amounted to an apology for the Motu Proprio, *Summórum Pontificum*. Approximately half of the talks were either directly or indirectly concerned with the Traditional Mass. For example, one speech articulated theological reasons to return to *ad oriéntem* celebration of the Mass.

Of equal if not more value than the speeches was the opportunity for networking with like-minded individuals. These included lay leaders of Tridentine communities, one of whom is the co-founder of Baronius Press, publisher of the well-known hand missal; music directors; priests becoming interested in the Extraordinary Form; and, impressively, Bishop Leonard Blair of Toledo, Ohio. It is rare that one can exchange ideas with such an experienced group of people.

Writer Shawn Tribe of The New Liturgical Movement blog was also present, and stopped by St. Josaphat for last Sunday’s Tridentine Mass on his way home. In testimony to the power of the Internet, as well as a sign of the more conservative liturgical times, a majority of the attendees wanted to spend a few minutes with him.

It was unfortunate that none of the official Masses or Vespers services were offered according to the Extraordinary Form. It was also almost embarrassing that the Masses were offered in a chapel that suffered from the all-too-common wreckovations one sees in Catholic Churches. Attendees were informed that a plan to restore a more traditional appearance to the chapel is underway, however even that could not be considered a full restoration to its original traditional ordering. But in the bigger picture, it would have been unthinkable just a few years ago that discussion of the Tridentine Mass would have been given such a prominent place in such a mainstream convention. Yet this is just what Pope Benedict is hoping for: that the wider availability of the Extraordinary Form will come to influence more traditional thinking about, and celebration of, the Mass experienced by the majority of Catholics.

Readers of this column would probably feel more at home at conferences such as the Latin Liturgy Association or C.I.E.L., where the talks, the liturgies, as well as the attendees would fully capture our interest. Fortunately, the LLA will be holding another convention in the summer of 2008.

## *Politics Still Rears Its Head*

It is sobering to read some of the reports coming out of other dioceses around the world. As blessed as we are in this region to have numerous Tridentine Mass sites springing up, in some dioceses, bishops are attempting to regulate or stop the initiation of such Masses, in direct violation of the terms of our Holy Father’s Motu Proprio.

In fairness, some of these efforts are probably innocent enough, such as desiring that all potential celebrants pass some sort of proficiency test in the rubrics or in Latin. But it is not unreasonable to be suspicious when a diocese imposing such requirements just happens to be one that never, or begrudgingly, permitted a Tridentine Mass under the previous indult conditions. Is the administration of a diocese that never allowed an indult Mass really qualified to judge competency in the old form?

The whole point of the Motu Proprio was to take the authority to hold a Tridentine Mass away from the bishops and give it to pastors. There is sure to be some debate about just what “is” is, to use a familiar analogy. And mediating these matters is sure to keep the staff of the Vatican’s Ecclesia Dei Commission busy for quite a while. Nevertheless, law is law, and just as civil rights laws took some years to be translated into action, ultimately the law should prevail. In the interim, let us pray for our brethren elsewhere who desire, but may not receive, Extraordinary Form Masses for some time.