

Tridentine Community News

November 4, 2007

Tones of the Preface

If you have attended the Masses recently celebrated by Fr. Andrew Bloomfield at Assumption or St. Josaphat, you may have noticed that the melody he employed to sing the Preface was different from what we are accustomed to.

[254] II Prefationes in tono solemniori

PRÆFATIO DE SS. TRINITATE

Per ómni- a sæcu- la sæcu- ló- rum. R. Amen. V. Dóminus vo- bis- cum.
R. Et cum spi- ri- tu tu- o. V. Sur- sum corda. R. Ha- bé- mus ad Dó- mi- num. V. Grá- ti- as a- gá- mus Dó- mi- no De- o no- stro.
R. Dí- gnum et iu- stum est. V. e- re dignum et iu- stum est, æquum et sa- lu- tá- re, nos ti- bi semper et u- bi- que grá- ti- as á- ge- re: Dómi- ne, sancte, Pa- ter omni- po- tens æ- térne De- us: Qui cum u- ni- gé- ni- to Fi- li- o tu- o, et Spi- ri- tu Sancto, u- nus es De- us, u- nus es Dó- mi- nus: non in u- ni- us singu- la-

The *Missale Romanum*, the altar missal used at the Traditional Latin Mass, contains four versions of each Preface. One is text only – no music – for use at Low Mass. Another is Solemn Tone, the setting that most celebrants use at Sung Mass, as it is intended for Sundays and solemn feasts, the kind of days on which a Sung Mass is typically held. The third is Ferial Tone, intended for Ferials, Masses said on weekdays. On a practical level, this form is rarely heard. Last, and contained in an appendix at the back of the missal, is the More Solemn Tone. This is the version that Fr. Bloomfield employed.

As its name implies, this fourth form is generally used for the most solemn of occasions. It requires the celebrant to have some skill in Gregorian Chant. You will also note from the accompanying picture that even the responses have different, more elaborate melodies. The Ferial Tone Prefaces have their own response melodies as well. In the future, we will print the music for these responses when we know in advance that our celebrant will use a special form of the Preface.

Trivia Question: What other chant in the Mass may be sung to an optional, rarely heard, different tone? Answer at the end of the column.

The Gallican Prefaces

If you own the Baronius Press hand missal, you may have noticed the inclusion of a chapter of additional Prefaces from the pre-eighth century French Gallican Rite. In March, 1997, the Ecclesia Dei Commission issued a decision stating that they “saw no difficulty” with the use of the Gallican Prefaces in the Tridentine Mass. The Fraternity of St. Peter Ordo, the most commonly used and authoritative schedule of the Traditional Liturgical Year, even lists when a Gallican Preface could optionally be used. However, 1962 altar missals do not contain these Prefaces. Pre-1997 hand missals would not contain them, either. And yet-to-be-published Tridentine missals are under no obligation to publish them.

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This decision must be interpreted as the granting of a permission for an exception to general practice. Until Rome mainstreams the use of the Gallican Prefaces in a future edition of the Extraordinary Form Missal, we will not employ them in our Masses. As we have stated before, we believe it is important at this time in Church history to adhere strictly to the 1962 Missal, as our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has asked.

In his Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, Pope Benedict expressly stated that this new legislation was superceding the previous Motu Proprio, *Ecclesia Dei*. Arguably, then, any special permissions that the Ecclesia Dei Commission granted under *Ecclesia Dei*'s time as law-in-force are also invalidated. Rome will probably have to answer for us in the near future: When a new law replaces an old one, do amendments to the old law automatically transfer to the new one? If not, since the “detail legislators” at the Ecclesia Dei Commission are the same people as before, could they not re-issue the same exceptional permissions as before?

New Location for the London Tridentine Mass

The members of the London, Ontario Extraordinary Form Community have a new home for their Mass: the chapel of the Windermere on the Mount



retirement residence. Windermere is a former convent, and this is the former convent chapel. The architecture is reminiscent of Farmington Hills' Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament: an early 1960s take on updating a traditional layout.

While it lacks the traditional high altar of the previous St. Joseph Hospital Chapel location, it has the much larger seating capacity of a mid-size parish church. The hospital chapel was simply too small to accommodate more than about 80 people comfortably, and its dollhouse dimensions also made it difficult to celebrate a Solemn Missa Cantata, much less a Solemn High Mass. Neither the Windermere nor the St. Joseph chapels contains a Communion Rail, and neither is part of a parish. Nevertheless, this move must be seen as an upgrade for this patient group.

Even more important than the new location, the Mass is now being held weekly at 8:00 AM, an improvement over its previous once-per-month, 4:00 PM time. The Fraternity of St. Peter continues to serve this community from their base in Hamilton, Ontario.

Answer to Trivia Question: The Pater Noster. There is a second version intended for certain Ferials and Masses for the Dead.