

Tridentine Community News

December 9, 2007

Another Extraordinary Form Mass on EWTN

In view of the “extraordinary” volume of positive feedback received after televising the first live Tridentine Mass on September 14, 2007, EWTN has invited the Fraternity of St. Peter to celebrate another live Mass, this coming Saturday, December 15, at 8:00 AM.

The celebrant will be Fr. John Berg, FSSP, an American who is now the Superior General of the Fraternity. As with the first Mass, seminarians from the FSSP’s Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska will be making the trek to Alabama to assist with the Mass. Fr. Berg will also be the guest on EWTN’s *The World Over Live* on Friday, December 14, at 8:00 PM.

The Tradition of the Rorate Mass

Intr.
1.
R
Ó-rá-te * cae-li dé-su-per, et nú-bes plú-ant
jú-stum : ape-ri-á-tur tér-ra, et gé-rminet Salva-
tó-rem. Ps. Caéli enárrant gló-ri-am Dé-i : * et ópera
mánu-um é-jus annúnti-at firmamén-tum. Gló-ri-a Pá-
tri. E u o a e.

This EWTN Mass will be a *Rorate* Mass. So named after the first words in the Introit, *Rorate caeli desuper* (Drop down dew, ye heavens), this is a Votive Mass of Our Lady. It may only be celebrated (in the Extraordinary Form) on a limited number of

days in Advent, due to the higher ranking of Ferial Days during this season. In 2007, the only day on which the *Rorate* Mass may be held is Saturday, December 15. In Europe, Germany in particular, there is a tradition of holding the *Rorate* Mass before dawn, by candlelight, symbolic of awaiting the dawn of our Lord’s coming.

Another Detroit Area Tridentine Mass Site Debuts

No stranger to either the Assumption-Windsor or St. Josaphat Tridentine Communities, Fr. John Hedges has begun offering the Extraordinary Form Mass twice per week at St. Stephen Parish, New Boston, off I-275 and Sibley Rd., near Detroit Metro Airport. Mass is held every Thursday at 7:00 PM, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, and Benediction. He has also initiated a Sunday Tridentine Mass at 2:00 PM. Both Masses are Missa Cantatas, with sung Propers and incense. For those who are counting, this is Metro Detroit Tridentine Mass site #5.

Private Tridentine Masses Are Commencing

Not surprisingly, in addition to the various Public Tridentine Masses that have started or are being planned in our region, at least two low-profile Private Masses have been started. The difference between a Public and Private Mass is that the latter is not published in the parish schedule or otherwise publicized. A Private Mass is only open to those whom a priest invites. It is

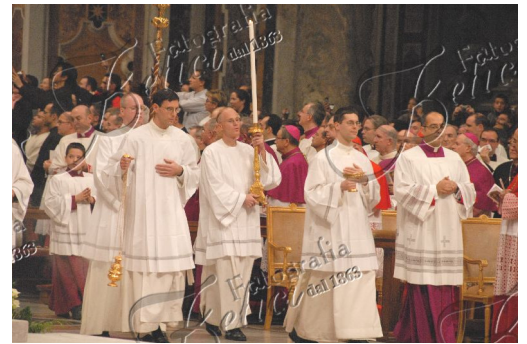
possible that these Private Masses will morph into Public Masses once the celebrants become more comfortable with the Mass.

Local Vocation Serves Pope’s Vespers

Many of you know Patrick Tonkin, a.k.a. Brother John Berchmanns of the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem. Brother John was for years an altar server for the Windsor Tridentine Mass,



and regularly visits both Assumption and St. Josaphat during his visits home. He is now living in Rome, studying for the priesthood. This has been quite the month for



Brother John: On November 22, he attended Ecclesia Dei Commission President Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos’ Extraordinary Form Mass. And this past Sunday, December 2, Brother John was privileged to be a candle bearer for the Holy Father’s Vespers service in St. Peter’s Basilica. Brother John’s participation was even recorded by the Vatican’s official photography service!

Fr. Andrew Bloomfield Visits Landmark Chicago Church



Brother John is not the only local figure in the news this week. On November 20, Fr. Andrew Bloomfield was privileged to have celebrated a Tridentine Mass at the main altar of Chicago’s famed St. John Cantius Church.

As we have pointed out in a previous column, St. John Cantius is one of North America’s most liturgically sophisticated parishes, with both Latin Ordinary and Extraordinary Form Masses on the schedule, and six choirs.