

Tridentine Community News

June 8, 2008

Cardinal Castrillón Ordains Four in the U.S.

Last Friday, May 30, an historic event occurred in the life of the Church in the United States, and in the Tridentine Mass movement at large. Dario Cardinal Castrillón Hoyos, the President of the Vatican's Pontifical Commission *Ecclésia Dei*, and the Holy Father's point man for all matters pertaining to the Tridentine Mass, visited Lincoln, Nebraska's Cathedral of the Risen Christ to ordain Deacons Jared McCambridge, Dennis Gordon, Justin Nolan, and Jonathan Romanoski to the sacred priesthood. Nearby Denton, Nebraska is the home of the Fraternity of St. Peter's Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary.

That such a high-ranking Vatican official would travel to the U.S. is news enough, but that he would be employing the Extraordinary Form of Ordination for four new priests whose ministries will be dedicated to the Tridentine Mass and sacraments is even more noteworthy. Attesting to this fact, EWTN broadcast the three-and-a-half hour ceremony live on Friday morning, the first time that a Pontifical Tridentine Mass of any sort has been broadcast live. The Vatican-connected co-founder of the FSSP and present seminary rector Fr. Josef Bisig no doubt pulled some strings to make this event happen.

The day began with a surreal moment: Your reporter ran into Cardinal Castrillón at the hotel breakfast buffet, and again later on the elevator. We chatted briefly, but meaningful conversation was not possible due to your writer's inability to converse in any language other than English. Surprisingly, he traveled alone, without a secretary.

Because of the size of the expected crowd, the event was held in the modern Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Many of the FSSP's ceremonies are held in their traditionally-outfitted St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lincoln, but that edifice would have only accommodated a small fraction of those in attendance. The Cathedral is Lincoln's largest church, seating approximately 800, and even it was overflowing with people standing in the aisles.

Built in 1965, the Cathedral was ill-suited to the Traditional Mass. No high altar, no Communion Rail, 1960s abstract-modern design, and a strange arrangement where the organist was positioned at the back of the sanctuary behind a wall of material akin to a speaker grille. That wall also held an enormous statue of the Risen Christ which seemed completely out of place alongside the Extraordinary Form. Nevertheless, one does the best with what one has. The freestanding altar was draped with a cloth that made it seem as though it had a columned front. Two shelves were mounted at the back of the altar to serve as a gradine for the requisite six candles. The circular, sunburst "tester" (suspended

baldachino) above the altar served its purpose of enshrining the Blessed Sacrament.

The sanctuary, though large, was crowded. A Pontifical Solemn Mass of any sort requires a large number of sacred ministers. Approximately 40 priests were seated in choir. And EWTN cameras abounded.

Latin/English handouts were provided. Moments of interest included a lengthier form of the Litany of the Saints chanted while the *ordinandi* lay prostrate on the floor. Among many symbols, the Cardinal placed chasubles over the new priests, folded up at the back to

signify that though the matter (the laying on of hands) and form (the prayer of ordination) of the Sacrament of Holy Orders were complete, the ordination ceremony was not. Later in the Mass, the chasubles were unfolded when the Cardinal said the prayer conferring the power to forgive sins.



An Ordination Mass is the only time in the Extraordinary Form where concelebration by multiple priests is allowed. Each new priest, assisted by an experienced priest, knelt in a semicircle behind the Cardinal, and concelebrated the Mass. The Cardinal read aloud the Canon and surrounding prayers which are usually recited silently, to guide the new priests in saying the prayers along with him.

After the ceremony, a reception was held in the cathedral's basement social hall. Not surprisingly, some familiar faces were there, including Chicago's Fr. Scott Haynes, organizer of St. John Cantius' impressive web site and priest training



seminars. Pictured here with Fr. Bisig are Ted & Audrey Amberg, coordinators of the Flint Tridentine Mass at All Saints Church.

The entire ceremony may be viewed at www.gloria.tv. Search for "FSSP Ordination". EWTN has also posted the informative Mass handout on their Motu Proprio Resources web page. A DVD may very well be forthcoming.