

# Tridentine Community News

September 5, 2010

## Commemorations

On a handful of Sundays and on several weekdays, the Roman Missal specifies a second, and occasionally even a third, set of Orations. The Orations are the Collect, Secret, and Postcommunion prayers recited or sung by the priest. The second set of Orations is usually for a secondary saint whose Feast is also assigned to that day. A third set of Orations usually reflects events, such as the anniversary of election of the Pope, or the anniversary of ordination of the celebrating priest.

The Mass of the secondary saint of a day can be celebrated under certain circumstances, such as if he or she is the patron saint of the parish. In addition, a more obscure saint who has also been assigned to that day in the Calendar could be chosen. Essentially all saints have been assigned Feast days and corresponding Propers, but only a relative few have been appointed primary or particular days.

A celebrant may also choose to celebrate a secondary saint's Feast on any Fourth Class Feria of the year. Fourth Class Ferias are days on which no Feast is specified. Saints' Masses are one of the Votive Mass options on those days. To provide for such flexibility, Missals list the Propers to be used for a full Mass for the secondary saint.

Commemorations are only specified for Low Masses. Commemorations are not sung at Solemn High or Pontifical Solemn Masses. In the days when it was the norm to have more than one priest at each parish, Rome presumed that the principal Sunday Mass would be a Solemn High Mass, in which a deacon and subdeacon assist the celebrant. The Missa Cantata form, which is a sung Mass celebrated by a priest alone, grew in prevalence as the number of priests per parish diminished. It is our understanding – readers, please e-mail a correction if you can cite an authoritative reference to the contrary – that Commemorations are also to be used at Missa Cantatas, since a Missa Cantata is characterized in ritual books as a Low Mass enhanced with music and optional additional ceremony.

The principal reason for drawing your attention to Commemorations is that it can be easy to get into the habit of sitting down after the first Collect at every Mass. We ask you to look at your Propers Handout or Missal and check whether

Commemoration(s) are specified that day. This will help you appreciate even more the richness of the Church's Calendar.

## "Commons" in the Propers

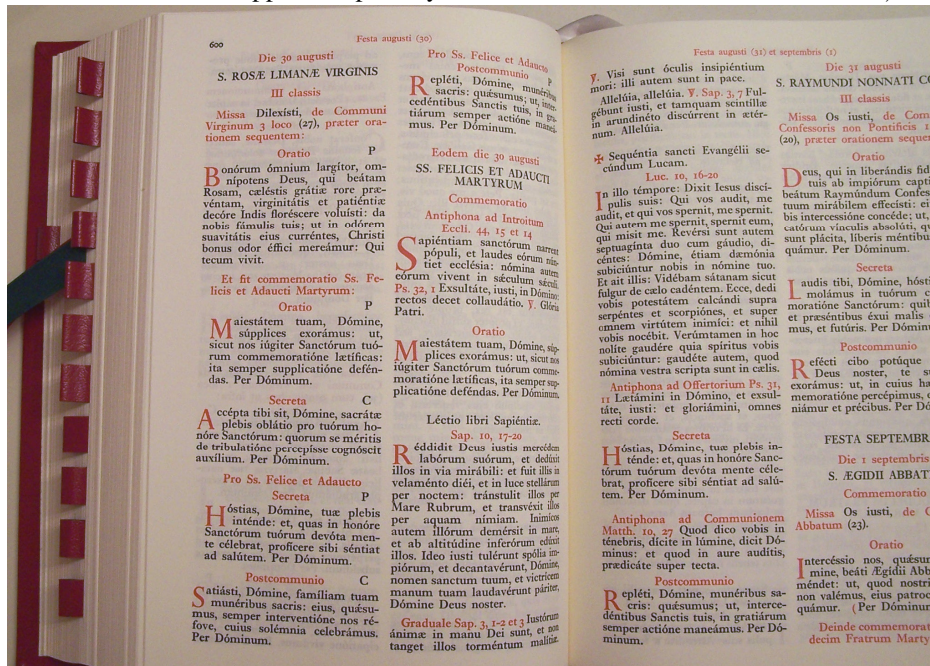
Those who have been attending our weekday Masses may have noticed that some of the readings and prayers are repeated from time to time. This is because for many Feasts, typically those of Third and Fourth Class, the Roman Missal specifies that the Propers to be used should come from the Commons.

The Commons are a section of the Missal with generic Propers for certain kind of person(s). For example: "A Confessor [who is] Not a Bishop"; "A Virgin Martyr"; "A Doctor"; "Many Martyrs".

There can be variation from Feast to Feast as to how much of the Commons are used. For instance, one Feast might have a unique

Collect, but the rest of the Propers are from the Commons; another Feast might have a special Collect and Epistle.

The accompanying photo of an altar missal shows how all of this works: August 30 is the Feast of St. Rose of Lima. The red rubric paragraph at the top left directs the celebrant to the Common of Virgins on a separate page. Only the Orations are listed for the day, in this case three for St. Rose and three for the Commemorated Ss. Felix & Adauctus. Each of the Orations is flagged with a



"P" for Proper if it is unique for the Feast, or "C" for Common if it is the same as the Common's generic version. Immediately following the Propers for St. Rose are the Propers for a Mass for Ss. Felix & Adauctus, to be used if these secondary saints' Feast is celebrated as the primary Feast of the day. Interestingly, unlike St. Rose's, the Propers for Ss. Felix & Adauctus are entirely unique; there is no redirection to Propers from the Commons.

## Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Principal Sunday Masses are not listed.

**Mon. 09/06 7:00 PM:** Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Requiem Mass with Absolution at the Catafalque)

**Tue. 09/07 7:00 PM:** Low Mass at *Assumption-Windsor* (Votive Mass for the Defense of the Church)

**Wed. 09/08 7:00 PM:** **High** Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary)