

Tridentine Community News

January 26, 2014 – Third Sunday After Epiphany

Announcing “Extraordinary Faith”:

A Locally-Produced EWTN Television Program About Sacred Tradition and the Extraordinary Form

We are delighted to announce the production of a monthly half-hour television program entitled *Extraordinary Faith*, the first video series to showcase the resurging interest in classic Catholic art, architecture, sacred music, and the Tridentine Mass. Almost three years in the making, the program is an effort to promote the Extraordinary Form and the culture and arts that surround it to Catholics and non-Catholics with little or no experience of sacred tradition. We hope to reach the sort of folks who wander into our churches and wonder why no one has told them that this form of Holy Mass exists, people who may be vaguely dissatisfied with the liturgies in their parishes but don't know where to turn. We intend to get the attention of this audience with a high-production-value, glossy, and relentlessly positive program focusing on the appeal of timeless Catholic culture and liturgy, unencumbered by heavy academics. Souls will be won over by simple beauty.

Program Format and Broadcast Distribution

Each episode includes tours of historic churches and interviews with accomplished figures on the Latin Mass scene. A travelogue/human interest format provides rich visuals to grab the attention of those with no knowledge of the Tridentine Mass.

EWTN, the largest Catholic television network in the world, has agreed to carry the program. Five episodes have been filmed thus far, with many more in the pipeline. The series is expected to debut on EWTN in March, April, or May, 2014; the broadcast schedule will be reported in this column once it has been set.

Co-Creators: Alex Begin and Mary O'Regan

The project was the idea of two individuals with experience organizing and promoting Tridentine Masses on both sides of the Atlantic: the author of this column, who serves as Executive Producer and Host, and London, England-based writer Mary O'Regan. A journalist for England's Catholic Herald newspaper with extensive connections throughout the Church, Mary is known for interviews with members of the hierarchy including the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Archbishop Gerhard Müller, and San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. Mary has been instrumental in taking *Extraordinary Faith* from concept to execution. She pitched the show to several Catholic networks and secured the interest of EWTN. Despite the distance, Mary served as co-producer and co-host on the first two episodes to help the effort enjoy a solid start.



Production Consultant, Founding Director, & Producer: Melanie Chartoff

Bringing an idea like this to fruition requires the involvement of someone who has been in the television production trenches.



Melanie Chartoff became a household name in the early 1980s as a cast member on ABC's *Fridays*, a comedy sketch show patterned after *Saturday Night Live*. She has acted in numerous movies, plays, and television shows, including *Parker Lewis Can't Lose* and *Seinfeld*, and she has written and is producing a new musical, *Fine Lines*. Melanie also coaches individuals on presentation and production techniques and helms niche video projects. She assembled and oversees a Los Angeles-based camera and video editing team for *Extraordinary Faith* with the ability to put together a production competitive with the best of commercial television.

Producer: James Brooke

Handling the myriad details of guest and site scheduling and crew and equipment procurement is television and film production veteran James Brooke.



Music: Edd Kalehoff

Capturing the attention of modern viewers requires engaging audio as well as video; theme music cannot be an afterthought. It's indisputable that *The Price is Right*, *ABC World News Tonight*, and *Monday Night Football* are shows with some of the catchiest theme music around. They have one thing in common: composer Edd Kalehoff. Edd and his colleague Bill Prickett have created a set of theme music and transition screen cues for *Extraordinary Faith* that are sure to remain in viewers' heads long after each episode has ended.

Donors and Prayers Needed

A charitable foundation named Extraordinary Faith is being formed to accept tax-deductible donations to pay for the show's production. Start-up funding has already been secured. While many people, this writer included, are volunteering their time to this effort, there are still substantial costs involved in keeping the program going. Each half-hour episode costs over \$20,000 to produce, and EWTN has a policy of not paying for independent productions. If you or anyone you know might be interested in contributing to the effort, kindly e-mail the address at the bottom of this page, or call (248) 952-8190. Donations can also be made on the program web site when it is ready. Even more important than donations, your prayers for this venture are especially appreciated.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 01/27 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Joseph* (St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)

Tue. 01/28 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Assumption-Windsor* (St. Peter Nolasco, Confessor)

Fri. 01/31 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Albert the Great, Dearborn Heights* (St. John Bosco, Confessor)