

Tridentine Community News

May 22, 2016 – Trinity Sunday

Oratory of St. Philip Neri Planned in Detroit

We are delighted to report one of the most ambitious clerical undertakings to take place in decades in the Archdiocese of Detroit: A group of priests is in the early stages of organizing a local Oratory of St. Philip Neri. Regular readers of this column know that the Oratorians are known globally for excellence in liturgy, preaching, and music, with a dual focus on the



Extraordinary Form and reverent celebrations of the Ordinary Form, often *ad orientem*.

Fr. Ryan Adams is one of the priests behind this initiative. Currently an Associate Pastor at the National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica in Royal Oak, Fr. Adams is a young priest – ordained in 2014 – who has already made his mark as a Tridentine Mass celebrant in our region.

The priests are endeavoring to achieve the first stage – that of an “Oratory in Formation” – over the next year. A home base of operations at an appropriate church will have to be negotiated, which will require the approval of both the host parish and the Archdiocese. A trial period of several years will then ensue, as the fledgling enterprise strives to become spiritually fruitful and financially self-sustaining. Not all Oratories in Formation are successful in making it to a more permanent arrangement.

Fr. Ryan asks for our prayers as this exciting venture gets off the ground.

The Rise of the Oratorians

Quite timely in light of the above development, England’s Catholic Herald newspaper issued a podcast on May 12 entitled, “*What is Behind the Unstoppable Rise of the Oratorians?*”. Recently England saw the establishment of its sixth house of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, in Bournemouth. It joins existing Oratories in Birmingham, London, Oxford, Manchester, and York, the first three of which have stellar reputations for liturgical life. While each Oratory is related to the other outposts of the Congregation of the Oratory, there is no hierarchical relationship to a regional base as there is at, for example, Dominican parishes. Each Oratory operates fairly autonomously. Many, but not all, Oratories put emphasis on the Sacred Liturgy, offering beautifully executed Holy Masses in both the Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms.

Why are priests attracted to become Oratorians? One reason is because that particular clerical arrangement offers some of the best aspects of both diocesan priesthood and community life as is often found in a religious order. Priests do not take vows of poverty as they would in an order. Rather, they are diocesan priests living in community. They do, however, make a promise of *stability*, which means they typically remain at a given Oratory for their entire priestly lives. Occasionally priests will transfer from

one Oratory to another, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

In the podcast, the interviewer asked Latin Mass Society of England and Wales Chairman Dr. Joseph Shaw why the Oratorians are enjoying such growth in the U.K. and other countries. He responded with a keen observation: Priests are attracted by a sense of *permanence* to their work. Sadly, it is all too common that a pastor who works diligently to bring beautiful liturgy, supplies, and vestments to a parish, and establishes a sacred music program, sees his work either partially or completely eliminated within a short period of time by a subsequent pastor. Priests at an Oratory of St. Philip Neri, however, are usually stationed at a particular church for their entire priesthood. As a result, once a particular philosophy of operation for a given Oratory is established, it is most likely to continue for the long term. The same priests will be there for the long haul to ensure the philosophy is maintained. We certainly have seen that with the London and Birmingham Oratories, in existence for many decades, and also with the Toronto Oratory, founded in the 1970s.

The full podcast is available at:

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2016/05/12/podcast-whats-is-behind-the-unstoppable-rise-of-the-oratorians/>

The Curiosity of Férias After Trinity Sunday

This week we experience an interesting oddity of the liturgical year. The Church assigned the Feast of Trinity Sunday one week after Pentecost Sunday. Prior to the establishment of this Feast, that particular Sunday was known as the First Sunday After Pentecost, a Sunday with its own Mass Propers like any other Sunday. When [weekday] Fourth Class Férias appear in the calendar, the celebrant is free to choose almost any Mass he desires, for example a Votive Mass, a Requiem Mass, or the Mass of any Saint. The default Mass for a Feria, however, is the Mass of the preceding Sunday.

What is unique about this week is that the Church specifies that weekday Férias are *not* to repeat the Mass of Trinity Sunday, but rather to default to the now-superseded Mass of the First Sunday After Pentecost. Yes, that’s right, a Mass which is *never actually celebrated on a Sunday*. The Mass Propers remain in the Missal, strictly to be used on weekday Férias.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 05/23 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Feria) [Mass of the First Sunday After Pentecost]

Tue. 05/24 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary* (Feria) [Mass of the First Sunday After Pentecost]

Thu. 05/26 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Corpus Christi)

Thu. 05/26 8:30 PM: High Mass at ***Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Detroit*** (Corpus Christi) – Holy Door opens at 8:00 PM. Procession with the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass. Celebrant: Fr. David Bechill. Juventútem Michigan gathering after Mass.

Sat. 05/25 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop & Confessor)

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org