

# Tridentine Community News

September 18, 2016 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

## *Praying for the Holy Father's Intentions*

A good habit to make in prayer, and one of the requirements for gaining a Plenary Indulgence, is to pray for the intentions of our Holy Father. Note that we are not praying for the person of the Pope, but for his intentions. We are not obliged to know what those intentions are when we are praying for them. Nevertheless, it is reasonable to ask, what exactly are those intentions?

For many years, this writer and others assumed that they were the monthly intentions which the Holy Father makes widely known through the Apostleship of Prayer ([www.apostleshipofprayer.org](http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org)). In their current form, there are two intentions per month, one Universal Intention, and one Evangelization Intention.

For the month of September, 2016, the Universal Intention is: **For the Centrality of the Human Person:** *That each may contribute to the*

*common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the center.*

The Evangelization Intention is: **Mission to Evangelize:** *That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.*

During the pontificate of Pope Francis, some of these monthly intentions have seemed vague, secularist, or even not very Catholic. The Universal Intention for September is one such example.

An August 30 post on Fr. John Zuhlsdorf's blog, [www.wdtprs.com](http://www.wdtprs.com), quite reasonably raised the question whether the faithful are obliged to pray for intentions which do not seem in concert with orthodox Catholic teaching. Two commenters responded with similar observations: We are free to pray for **General Intentions** of the Holy Father, rather than for the Apostleship of Prayer intentions. The first commenter stated:

"A commentary on Canon 984 in the 1917 CIC [the previously in force Code of Canon Law] describes them [the General Intentions] thus:

"The general intention of the Holy Father is the exaltation of the Church, the propagation of the Faith, the uprooting of heresies and schisms, the conversion of sinners, and peace and concord among the nations."

The second commenter's remarks:

"Prümmer in his *Manuale* (vol. III, no. 556) says that 'Intentions of the Holy Father' which we pray for in the course of obtaining an

Indulgence are a five-fold set which tradition (and the former Congregations) have fixed as such, namely:

1. *Exaltatio S. Matris Ecclesiae* (The triumph/growth of holy mother the Church),
2. *Extirpatio hæresum* (The rooting out of heresy),
3. *Propagatio fidei* (The propagation of the Faith)
4. *Convèrsio peccatorum* (The conversion of sinners),
5. *Pax inter principes christianos* (Peace among Christian rulers)."

Fr. Z concurred with these comments, which seem eminently reasonable and backed up by tradition. No Catholic should fear that praying for the Holy Father's intentions results in praying for anything contradictory to the Church's immemorial needs and traditions. Keeping in mind the Holy Father's General Intentions is one option for praying for the Pope's intentions fully in concord with the mind of the Church.

## *Reception & Talk at OCLMA on September 25: The Dynamic Growth of the Extraordinary Form in Southeast Michigan*

The past two and a half years, and especially the past six months, have seen an acceleration in the introduction of new Tridentine Mass sites in our part of the world. Indeed, in the fall of 2016 alone, *five new locations* will begin to host the Traditional Latin Mass.

Next Sunday, September 25, these developments will be addressed in detail at a presentation during a reception following the 9:45 AM Mass at the Oakland County Latin Mass Association/Academy of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Bloomfield Hills. We hope you can join us for refreshments and fellowship.

Next week's Tridentine Community News will carry an updated list of all current Extraordinary Form Mass sites in southeast Michigan and southwestern Ontario, plus a description of the very newest site, in Sarnia, Ontario, which is debuting on October 7.

## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

**Mon. 09/19 7:00 PM:** Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (St. Januarius & Companions)

**Tue. 09/20 7:00 PM:** Low Requiem Mass at *Holy Name of Mary* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

**Sat. 09/21 8:30 AM:** Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Ember Saturday)