

# Tridentine Community News

May 7, 2017 – Third Sunday After Easter

## *Confession Locations and Schedules*

A reader requested a listing of places and times for reception of a reliable, by-the-books form of the Sacrament of Confession. Metro Detroit's most convenient site is unquestionably St. Bonaventure Monastery, a.k.a. the Solanus Casey Center, where Confession is offered Monday – Saturday, on the hour at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM, and 4:00 PM. Confessions continue each hour till all penitents have been heard. Sometimes you may be the only one there; at other times there can be lengthy lines.

Trustworthy churches offering Confession before Mass include Old St. Mary's (before every Mass, every day), the Oakland County Latin Mass Association at the Academy of the Sacred Heart Chapel in Bloomfield Hills (before Mass on the first or second Sunday of each month), Ss. Cyril & Methodius in Sterling Heights (before every Mass, every day), St. Joseph Oratory (before every Mass, every day), and the St. Benedict Tridentine Community at St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Mary Churches in Windsor (before Mass every Sunday).

## *The Traditional Form of Confession*

Fr. Peter Hrytsyk at St. Benedict, Fr. Joe Tuskiewicz at Tridentine Masses, and Canon Stein at St. Joseph offer the Traditional form of Confession. From the perspective of the penitent, the Extraordinary Form of Penance is not all that different from what one would experience in a more traditional Novus Ordo setting.

The penitent enters the confessional and says, "*Bless me Father, for I have sinned.*"

The penitent makes the Sign of the Cross while the priest says, "*The Lord be in Thy heart and on thy lips, that thou mayest rightly confess thy sins. In the name of the Father ☩, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*"

The penitent tells the priest how long it has been since his last Confession, then recites the number and kind of his sins. The penitent concludes with a statement to the effect of, "*For these and all my other sins, which I cannot presently remember, I am heartily sorry.*"

The priest may ask some questions and give some advice. The priest will assign a penance. The priest then says: "*Misereatur tui omnipotens Deus, et dimissis peccatis tuis, perducat te ad vitam aeternam. Amen.*"

(In English: "May almighty God have mercy on thee, and forgive thee all thy sins, and bring thee to life everlasting. Amen.")

Holding his right hand over the penitent, the priest says: "*Indulgentiam, absolutiorem, et remissionem peccatorum tuorum tribuat tibi omnipotens et misericors Dominus. Amen.*"

(In English: "May the almighty and merciful God grant thee indulgence, absolution, and remission of all thy sins. Amen.")

Still holding his right hand over the penitent, the priest removes any impediments to the validity of the absolution he is about to give: "*Dominus noster Jesus Christus te absolvat; et ego auctoritate ipsius te absolvo ab omni vinculo excommunicationis, (suspensionis,) et interdicti, in quantum possum et tu indiges.*" If the penitent is a layman, the word "*suspensionis*" is omitted.

(The English translation: "May our Lord Jesus Christ absolve thee; and by His authority I absolve thee from every bond of excommunication, (suspension,) and interdict, in proportion to my power and thy need.")

The priest recites the words of absolution while both the priest and the penitent make the Sign of the Cross. [A bishop makes the Sign of the Cross three times]: "*Deinde ego te absolvo a peccatis tuis, in nomine Patris ☩, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.*"

(In English: "Thereupon, I absolve thee from thy sins, in the name of the Father ☩, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.")

Finally, the priest says a prayer for the remission of temporal punishment due for sins: "*Passio Domini nostri Jesu Christi, merita Beatae Mariae Virginis, et omnium Sanctorum, quidquid boni feceris, et mali sustinueris, sint tibi in remissionem peccatorum, augmentum gratiae et praemium vitae aeternae. Amen.*"

(In English: "May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints, whatever good you shall have done, and evil you shall have endured, be to you unto remission of sins, increase of grace, and reward of eternal life. Amen.")

Note that the Extraordinary Form of the Sacrament does not require the penitent to make an Act of Contrition. The priest does retain the option to request this, a sensible and laudable custom, prior to giving absolution.

Also note that canonically, a priest does not have the right to remove every kind of bond of excommunication. That is reserved to the diocesan Ordinary (bishop). Therefore, the prayer is careful to say, "in proportion to my power". A priest must refrain from absolving difficult cases and refer the matter to a bishop.

The concluding prayer for remission of temporal punishment is a beautiful and appropriate follow-up to absolution, and is unique to the Extraordinary Form. The wording of the whole Sacrament helps to remind us that absolution is a serious matter, and emphasizes that the priest is acting *in persona Christi*.

## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

Mon. 05/08 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Apparition of St. Michael)

Tue. 05/09 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)

Sat. 05/13 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)