

Tridentine Community News

June 3, 2018 – External Solemnity of Corpus Christi

Why Men Are Needed to Serve at the Altar

The May 18, 2018 issue of *The Michigan Catholic* newspaper contained an article by Dan Meloy explaining the value to the Church of adult male altar servers. The story is posted on-line at: <http://www.themichigancatholic.org/2018/05/a-calling-in-itself-adult-altar-servers-fulfill-an-ageless-vocation/>

This article brings to mind a post from May 18, 2016 on the *Modern Medievalism* blog entitled, “More Than Boys; Why Men are Needed to Serve the Altar”, a lengthy and detailed history of how lay altar servers derived from what was originally a clerical or semi-clerical role. Read the whole post at: <http://modernmedievalism.blogspot.com/2016/05/more-than-boys.html>

Historically it was presumed that those serving at the altar were either in or aspiring to be in the clerical state [in the Extraordinary Form system the minor order of Acolyte, which evolved into the Ordinary Form installed ministry of Acolyte]. That is why the cassock and surplice – sartorial marks of a cleric – are the traditional garb of altar servers. Even a reference source as recent as O’Connell’s 1964 rubrics guide, *The Celebration of Mass*, presumes that only clerics may function in the server role of Master of Ceremonies at Mass.

Clearly times have changed. Nowadays there are two phenomena of note: 1) At many if not most Tridentine Mass sites, laypeople are key organizers, team-builders, and responsible for set-up and take-down of the church’s Tridentine Mass configuration; and 2) Male altar servers of all ages are more likely than non-server males to consider a religious vocation. Here in metro Detroit and Windsor, we have seen both first and second career vocations develop from our Extraordinary Form sites.

As a result, both from a mentoring/organizational viewpoint as well as to foster consideration of priestly and religious vocations, it is important for adult men as well as boys to be welcomed to serve at the altar. Obviously married men cannot become priests, but they are often the key coordinators and trainers in our server programs, overseeing the boys in the physical duties, liturgical instruction, and political realities surrounding making the Traditional Mass available in a church. Along with our priests, they can also provide experienced and friendly ears for the single adult males who may be thinking of entering the seminary.

At most Tridentine Mass sites in metro Detroit, including the Oakland County Latin Mass Association at the Academy of the Sacred Heart Chapel, the St. Benedict Tridentine Community at St. Alphonsus and Holy Name of Mary Churches, Old St. Mary’s, and Our Lady of the Scapular, adult men and boys who have made their First Holy Communion are invited to serve at the altar. See one of our servers if you are interested in joining the team.

Church Restoration in Brazil, Indiana

A reader suggested that we mention another significant “unwreckovation”, that of Annunciation Church in Brazil,

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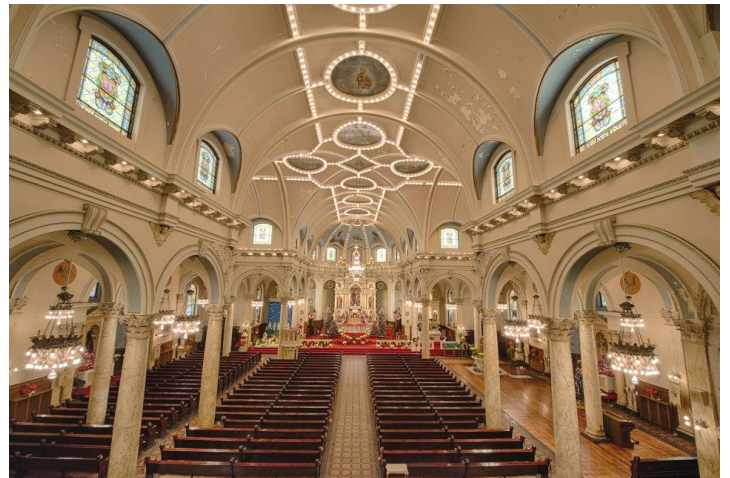
Indiana, in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Under pastor Fr. John Hollowell, the church has reinstalled a High Altar and Communion Rail and moved its organ from the sanctuary to the choir loft.

As you might expect, the church hosts the Traditional Latin Mass. [Photo copyright 2017, Tribune-Star, full story at:



http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/annunciation-catholic-church-unveils-million-remodel/article_b00c4109-4f8b-59ed-b614-05ced5d12e03.html

Reminder: Special Tridentine Mass at St. Francis d’Assisi Church Next Sunday, June 10



A major event next Sunday, June 10 at 10:00 AM, as Detroit’s historic and grand St. Francis d’Assisi Church on Wesson Street north of Michigan Avenue will host its first Tridentine High Mass in over 45 years. Members of the OCLMA and St. Benedict are coordinating this Mass. The parish is considering holding additional periodic Masses in the Extraordinary Form if turnout for this first one is strong, so please consider attending. Note that there will be no Mass at the OCLMA/Academy that Sunday.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 06/05 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr)

Sat. 06/09 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Ss. Primus & Felicianus, Martyrs)

Sun. 06/10: No Mass at *OCLMA/Academy of the Sacred Heart*

Sun. 06/10 10:00 AM: High Mass at *St. Francis d’Assisi, Detroit* (Third Sunday After Pentecost)