

Tridentine Community News

July 15, 2018 – Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Privately Owned Churches and Chapels

Most Catholics assume – rightly so – that most Catholic churches are owned by the diocese. After all, it is the bishop who ultimately decides when churches open and close. There are exceptions to this rule, however, some of which are rather interesting.

In the Archdiocese of Detroit several churches are owned by entities other than the diocese: Ss. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church downtown is owned by the Jesuits. Chapels that are located on the property of other institutions are understandably owned by the parent organization; the chapel at the Academy of the Sacred Heart is owned by the school, for example.

A trend that has been gaining momentum locally and globally as parishes close and dioceses run short on funds is for independent charitable organizations to take over ownership of churches. The grand St. Albertus Church, the oldest Polish church in Detroit, was purchased by former parishioners in 1991 after it was closed as a parish. To this day Masses and special events are held there; the best-attended Mass Mob ever filled the 2,500 seats of the grand old edifice.

St. Claude Church in Clinton Township closed and was purchased by the Divine Mercy Center, which operates it as a church and has regular Masses there; the opening Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Vigneron.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Riverview is owned by the Blue Army. This chapel has been around so long that this is actually the second location it has occupied.



St. Joseph Chapel in Pontiac was closed as a parish in 2013 and was purchased and reopened by Terra Sancta Ministries, which holds

regular Masses there and operates a tour operation to the Holy Land out of its facilities.

As this column has previously reported, there are a few chapels in office buildings and retail settings which are owned by religious communities or the business owners of the real estate.

One of the most fascinating developments is the quietly growing number of private chapels in homes. Many if not most of them are outfitted with High Altars only, thus indicating that they are suited for the Traditional Mass. A number of estates in England have impressive private chapels, such as Milton Manor House, below. [Photo by Joseph Shaw, Latin Mass Society of England and Wales]

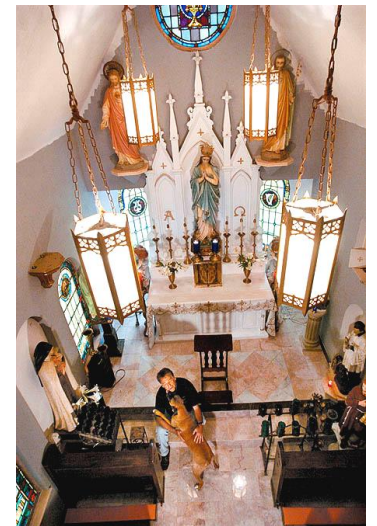


In recent years North America has been catching up. Prolific church architect Duncan Stroik designed Holy Family Chapel, below, for a home in Nebraska.



The adjacent home chapel in Crafton, Pennsylvania deserves special commendation: Not only does it have an organ, it even has a choir loft. [Photo by Pittsburgh Post-Gazette]

Each chapel must negotiate with the diocese to establish whether it is allowed to reserve the Blessed Sacrament. For example, St. Albertus is not permitted reservation, but California's Queen of Life Chapel, located inside a law firm, has been granted permission.



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 07/17 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary*, Windsor (St. Alexius, Confessor)

Sat. 07/21 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (St. Laurence of Brindisi, Confessor & Doctor)