

Tridentine Community News

July 22, 2018 – Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Prototype SSPX Wedding in Detroit Diocesan Church

Much press was given in April, 2017 to Pope Francis' decision to permit priests of the Society of St. Pius X to celebrate wedding Masses in churches owned by local dioceses. Following on the heels of the permission granted for priests of the SSPX to hear Confessions validly, this was an important step in bringing the SSPX closer to full communion with Rome.

Did you know that a local situation was one of the driving factors for this permission? A petition had been made through Vatican channels for a couple to be married by a priest of the SSPX at Detroit's Old St. Mary's Church. Oakland County Latin Mass Association Chaplain Msgr. Ronald Browne, who serves as head of the Metropolitan Tribunal and is a canon lawyer as well as a civil lawyer, shepherded the petition through the appropriate departments in Rome. It was only days after permission was granted for this one special case in Detroit that the Vatican extended the permission to all. There are a few stipulations, the most important being that a priest of the diocese should witness the wedding, but that is in much the same spirit as the longstanding requirement that a parish pastor give approval for any outside priest to celebrate a wedding in his church.

This first SSPX wedding at Old St. Mary's took place on Saturday, July 21. Wassim Sarweh and the St. Benedict Tridentine Community Choir were invited to supply the music.

Solemn High Wedding for Jackson Choir Members

It isn't often that we learn of a wedding of two relatively high-profile local "Tridentiners", to use Fr. Mark Borkowski's turn of phrase. Two prominent members of Jackson, Michigan's St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Latin Mass Schola will be getting married at their church on Friday, August 31, at a Solemn High Mass. The groom is Bill Price, Jr., co-director of the schola and son of Jackson Latin Mass organizer Bill Price, Sr. The bride is Sipkje Pesnichak, the multi-instrumentalist who has subbed as organist at numerous metro Detroit Extraordinary Form sites for many years.

A relatively recent addition to the regional Tridentine Mass music scene, the Star of the Sea Schola has quickly become one of the largest and best-known local choirs serving the Extraordinary Form. Counting among its members several professional musicians including organist Jeff Mausolf, the schola has done an excellent job of promoting itself via social media and a YouTube channel of recordings. Since the Jackson Latin Mass community

relocated to Star of the Sea Church and established the schola a few years ago, attendance has almost tripled, confirming evidence we have already seen at St. Benedict and St. Josaphat: A high-level music program in a beautiful historic church brings in the faithful, who in turn offset the costs of the choir.

No mention of Sipkje can go without commenting on her incredible talent with so many musical instruments. On her personal web site, named – you guessed it – www.sipkje.com – is the mind-boggling list of instruments she can play. Also on the site is a video of Sipkje playing herself on the organ while accompanying herself on the organ using the pedals. Not exactly the sort of talent one runs across very often.

We wish the couple many blessings and thanks for their dedication to the Traditional Mass.

Organist Aaron Tan Wins Award

Speaking of organists, one of our big-

picture responsibilities is to train new talent for the future. A frequent visiting organist coming up through the ranks over the past few years at the Oakland County Latin Mass Association, St. Benedict, and Old St. Mary's has been Aaron Tan, a multi-talented young man who happens to have a Ph.D. in Materials Science from the University of Michigan. Aaron recently won first prize in the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition, which will surprise few of our readers familiar with his skilled organ playing. Aaron is headed this fall to Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music.



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 07/24 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Christina, Virgin & Martyr)

Sat. 07/28 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Ss. Nazarius & Celsus, Martyrs; St Victor I, Pope & Martyr; and St. Innocent I, Pope & Confessor)