

Tridentine Community News

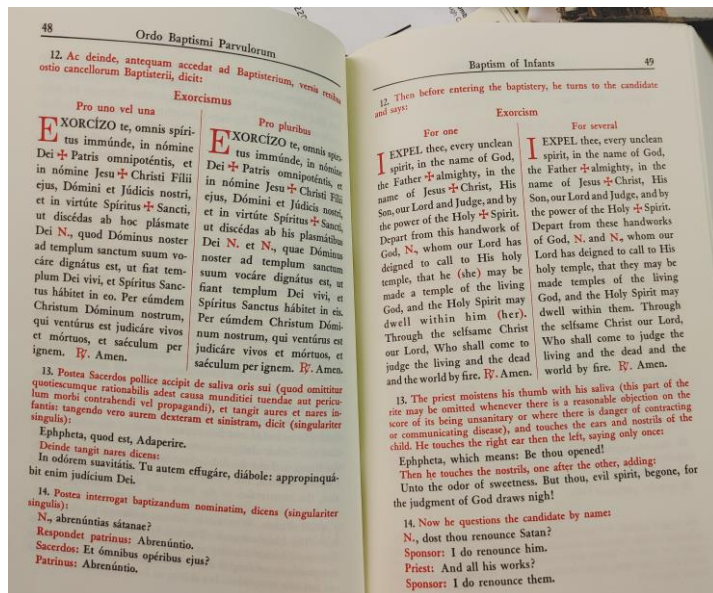
December 6, 2020 – Second Sunday of Advent

The Evangelizing Appeal of the Traditional Roman Ritual

It's no surprise to our readers that while the Traditional Latin Mass has been gaining significant new fans among clergy in recent years, there remains a sizable number of priests who do not care for it at all. Many of those negative attitudes are based on a lack of experience with it in the real world. As soon as someone tells you "the Latin Mass is for old people", for example, that's a giveaway that he or she has not attended a TLM in the current era. It's comparable to someone debating the relative merits of Disney World vs. Universal Studios Orlando who has never actually visited either.

On the other side of the coin, this writer, over decades of working with priests, has yet to encounter a priest of any stripe, conservative or liberal, who likes the Ordinary Form Book of Blessings. The deficiencies of that book are painfully obvious to everyone: 1) Most objects are not actually blessed at all; it's more of a book of good wishes towards the users of the objects. 2) Some blessings are excessively long, with scriptural passages read as part of the ritual. 3) There is a lack of clarity and purpose.

Many if not most priests who take Extraordinary Faith's celebrant training class for the Traditional Mass are already familiar with the Traditional Roman Ritual. The three-volume Weller Ritual (pictured below) is already in many priests' possession. Some don't quite understand its nuances, such as that only the Latin is authorized to be prayed; the English text of the blessings is provided only for reference. However, the innate appeal of a collection of blessings that are by and large short, to-the-point, and replete with very clear exorcisms and meaningful ceremonial gestures speaks volumes.



That introduces a point worth pondering: Can we as traditionally-minded Catholics use the Traditional Roman Ritual to evangelize traditional liturgy in general with priests who seem otherwise satisfied with the Novus Ordo? The very same points that make

the Traditional Ritual appealing also apply to the Traditional Mass and Sacraments. Baptism is a perfect example of a crossover point where we can find common ground: Almost every priest who attempts a Traditional Baptism with its concise and clear ceremonies of exorcism will, upon reflection afterwards, find the Ordinary Form Baptism lacking in comparison. That same beauty and clarity of purpose can be found, for example, in the more verbose and beautifully expressive Offertory prayers in the Extraordinary Form Mass.

Consider having one or more of the Weller Ritual volumes on hand. It can be useful for sick calls, home blessings, and the like, but it can also be immensely useful with an open-minded priest as a conversation starter over the larger world of traditional liturgy.

First Public Traditional Mass of Fr. Marcel Portelli

Congratulations to Fr. Marcel Portelli of the Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan, who celebrated his first High Mass in the Extraordinary Form at St. Matthew Church with the Flint, Michigan Latin Mass Community last Sunday, November 29, after training from Extraordinary Faith. Over 250 faithful attended. Fr. Portelli has been named one of the chaplains of the long-awaited new Latin Mass Community which will be holding its first Mass next Sunday, December 13 at 3:00 PM at Holy Family Church in downtown Saginaw. Saginaw Bishop Robert Gruss will attend that debut Mass as a sign of support and will preach the homily. The official announcement from the Diocese of Saginaw is here: <https://saginaw.org/news/diocese-offer-extraordinary-form-roman-rite-latin-mass>



Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 12/08 7:00 PM: High Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
Sat. 12/12 8:00 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Feria)
Sun. 12/13 10:00 AM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (Third Sunday of Advent) – Celebrant: Msgr. Ronald Browne
Sun. 12/13 3:00 PM: High Mass at *Holy Family, Saginaw* (Third Sunday of Advent) – Debut of Traditional Latin Masses at the parish. Celebrant: Fr. Christopher Coman. Saginaw Bishop Robert Gruss will attend in choir and will preach the homily.