

Tridentine Community News

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday

Privately Owned and Operated Historic Churches

In recent weeks this column has mentioned some privately owned churches that are in various stages or restoration or reopening to host Masses once again. It's worth mentioning that some of America's most noteworthy and architecturally significant historic churches are in the hands of private owners or operators. In some cases a diocese has transferred ownership of the church to a lay-led nonprofit organization, while in other cases a lay organization takes responsibility for operating the church while the title remains in the name of the diocese.



St. Alphonsus Church in New Orleans was an Irish parish located across the street from a German parish, St. Mary's Assumption. The two parishes merged, and in 1990 the diocese, while retaining ownership, leased St. Alphonsus to the Friends of St. Alphonsus. The group lovingly restored the edifice to its pre-Vatican II condition, opens it up for visitation every Saturday, hosts concerts and on rare occasions Masses. You can read more about the organization on their web site:

<http://www.friendsofstalphonsus.org/>

and their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stalphonsusnola/>



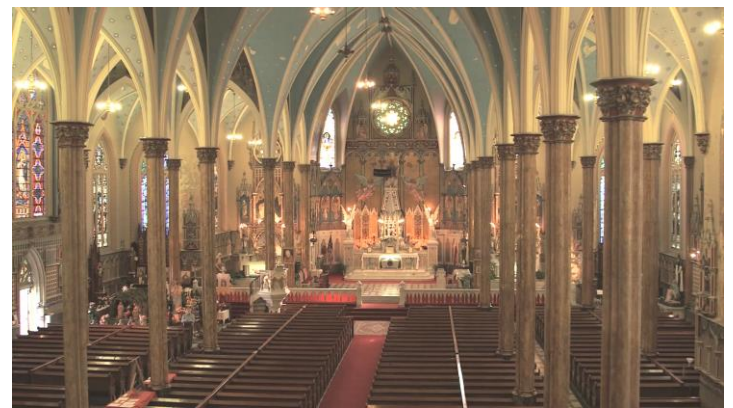
Perhaps the most famous and successful privately-run church in the U.S. is the Shrine of St. Joseph in St. Louis, Missouri. Still owned by the archdiocese but long administered by the Friends of St. Joseph, the Shrine has been restored to a state of true beauty. The sanctuary lighting in particular makes the reredos and statuary stand out. For a while the Shrine even hosted weekly Tridentine Masses. The archdiocese in turn has rewarded the volunteers by

assigning the church a priest rector. For more information, visit: <https://www.shrineofstjoseph.org/>

Very little is said publicly about the fact that St. Patrick Church and Rosary Shrine in Merlin, Ontario has been acquired by a lay organization.

Staffed by the Rosarian Fathers of Sri Lanka, it functions as a shrine

of the Diocese of London: <https://olrshrine.ca/>



The Archdiocese of Detroit is home to a number of privately owned and operated churches. An article such as this could not fail to mention the standout among them, the grand and glorious 2500 seat St. Albertus Church, now owned by the Polish American Historic Site Association. The church hosts numerous Masses per year and welcomes volunteers to join its ongoing restoration efforts: <http://www.stalbertusdetroit.org/>

If you know of a struggling church that is searching for a new lease on life, tell its parishioners about these success stories. As dioceses look to offload churches, private administration can be a viable means to preserve and restore these beautiful historic edifices, hopefully even continuing, or resuming, hosting Holy Masses once again.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Thu. 04/01 7:00 PM: High Mass at *Oakland County Latin Mass Association/Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel of St. John Paul II* (Holy Thursday) – Celebrant: Fr. Lukasz Iwanczuk

Fri. 04/02 1:30 PM: Chanted Good Friday Service at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake* – Celebrant: Fr. Lukasz Iwanczuk

Fri. 04/02 5:30 PM: Chanted Good Friday Service at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor*

Sat. 04/03 8:00 PM: High Mass at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake* (Easter Vigil) – Celebrant: Fr. Clint McDonell. Choir will sing *Messe à 3 Voix* by Théodore Dubois.

Sun. 04/04: No Mass at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake*

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org.