

# Tridentine Community News

June 20, 2021 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

## *The Norbertines' New St. Michael's Abbey, Part 1 of 2*

Few metro areas have their traditional liturgical scene so dominated by a single group of priests as does metropolitan Los Angeles. Though there is an FSSP parish in the suburbs of L.A., the vast majority of Traditional Latin Mass sites are served by priests of one religious order, the Norbertines. Before we address their new abbey...we'll cover that next week...let's review some of the numerous parishes in the region where members of this growing order serve:

**Mission San Juan Capistrano:** Site of the Serra Chapel, the oldest functioning Catholic church in California, where Fr. Junipero Serra celebrated Mass in the 1783, the Mission was one of the first indult Tridentine Mass sites in the U.S. Its 8:00 AM Sunday Missa Cantata regularly has all seats filled by 7:15 AM, with later arrivals relegated to standing.



**Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Wilmington:** Located near Long Beach, Ss. Peter & Paul [photo above by Gary Denni] is one of L.A.'s most beautiful historic church buildings. Everything in the church glistens from being cleaned and polished to perfection. Long the home of Novus Ordo Latin as well as Tridentine Masses, since the Norbertines took over running the parish, the Norbertine Rite has been celebrated there. It's a slightly modified version of the Tridentine Mass in which the celebrant extends his arms in the form of a cross for a few paragraphs of the Canon after the Consecration.

**St. John the Baptist Parish, Costa Mesa:** Formerly a fairly generic Ordinary Form parish, since the Norbertines took over the building has been redone in a more traditional style, a classically-oriented music director has been hired, and the Traditional Mass has become a key part of the parish's offerings.

**St. Mary by the Sea, Huntington Beach:** Located just a few blocks from the beach in the town made famous by the song Surf City, St. Mary by the Sea has long offered a Sunday noon Missa Cantata, celebrated for over ten years by Norbertines.

**St. Therese Parish, Alhambra:** Run by the Carmelite Fathers, St. Therese began hosting the TLM right after *Summorum Pontificum* was published in 2007. After the retirement of longtime celebrant Fr. Robert Bishop, CMF, the Norbertines took over responsibility for celebrating the Traditional Mass.



**San Secondo d'Asti Parish, Ontario:** Imagine a Catholic version of Dearborn's Greenfield Village. The theme is an ornate Catholic church in the middle of an historic vineyard. While the actual vineyard land has long ago been developed into a generic suburban office park surrounding the Ontario Airport, remnants of the original vineyard remain, including a wine store, an old post office, and old workers' residence huts. At the center of it all is an old stucco church [photo above] meant to resemble a church in the vineyard founder's historic home of Asti, Italy. San Secondo now offers all Masses *ad orientem*, with the Tridentine Mass so packed that faithful stand outside the church looking in. After the passing of longtime pastor Fr. Louis Marx, the Norbertines supply priests to help out with the endless stream of events at the busy parish.

**St. Thomas More Parish, Irvine:** Originally a modern, pre-fab, portable classroom-style church, St. Thomas More Church has been made more traditional and, amazingly for long-timers familiar with the parish, hosts a weekly Sunday Tridentine Mass offered by the Norbertines.

**St. John Paul II Center, Yorba Linda:** A Polish cultural center with its own chapel, the John Paul II Center debuted Sunday Tridentine Masses in the 2000s, which are now offered by Norbertine priests.

**St. John Vianney Chapel, Balboa Island:** A charming, small historic chapel located along the main street of the uber-wealthy community of Balboa Island (imagine Grosse Pointe's Kercheval Ave. reached by car ferry), St. John Vianney does not host the Traditional Mass but rather the Novus Ordo celebrated in a reverent manner. Norbertines help out at the packed daily 7:45 AM Mass, attended by some of Orange County's most generous Catholic benefactors.