

Tridentine Community News

July 25, 2021 – Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

The Motu Proprio Traditionis Custodes

Since its publication last Friday, July 16, Pope Francis' Motu Proprio *Traditionis Custodes* has prompted an outpouring of expressions of dismay and disappointment from Latin Mass attendees. Essentially it abrogates Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* and revokes the universal permission for priests to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass on their own initiative. Bishops once again have to approve priests who desire to celebrate the Tridentine Mass, as well as designate where and when these Masses are to be celebrated.

There is much commentary elsewhere about this document which does not need to be repeated here. Instead we will focus upon a few observations not emphasized in other writings.

First, the Motu Proprio says that the Traditional Mass may not be celebrated in parochial (parish) churches. This mirrors a policy stated in the original 1984 indult for the Traditional Mass, *Quattuor Abhinc Annos*:

"Such celebration must be made only for the benefit of those groups that request it; in churches and oratories indicated by the bishop (not, however, in parish churches, unless the bishop permits it in extraordinary cases)..."

And yet...*approximately half of the TLMs offered in that era were, in fact, held in parish churches.* An example of that is on the reverse side of this page, on which is printed an update to the Latin Mass Directory from the March, 1987 Latin Liturgy Association Newsletter. Both Ordinary and Extraordinary Form Latin Masses are listed, but note the three EF sites in parish churches, despite this being the 1984 indult period.

How could this have been accomplished without admonishment from Rome? The answer is provided by Canon Lawyer Fr. Tim Ferguson, a former parishioner of St. Josaphat Church in Detroit. He explained that Canon Law allows bishops to override certain rules for the good of the faithful:

"Canon 87, paragraph 1

'Whenever he judges that it contributes to their spiritual welfare, the diocesan bishop can dispense the faithful from disciplinary laws, both universal laws and those particular laws made by the supreme ecclesiastical authority for his territory or his subjects. He cannot dispense from procedural laws or from penal laws, nor from those whose dispensation is specially reserved to the Apostolic See or to some other authority.'

The norms of this motu proprio are disciplinary laws - they are not procedural or substantive. Any diocesan bishop, for the good of the

faithful, can dispense from them. He can dispense priests from the apparent obligation to ask his permission to use the old books, he can dispense from the apparent prohibition against using offering the old Mass in parish churches, he can dispense from the requirement that the newly ordained seek his permission.

Whether a diocesan bishop will do so or another thing, but he has the canonical authority to do so."

Few dioceses have an abundance of suitable, available, and sizable chapels [photo: Ottobeuren Abbey in Germany] sitting around to accommodate hosting the TLM-going faithful. Here in metro Detroit the Oakland County Latin Mass Association already uses the Archdiocesan Shrine Chapel of St. John Paul II on the Orchard Lake Schools campus, but few facilities of that size exist around town. Using parish churches is a common sense approach,



both before and after this Motu Proprio. Even considering the temporal side, parishes shouldn't have to lose out on the collections that the Traditional Mass adds to the parish budget. Furthermore, Pope Francis' accompanying letter contradicts the Motu Proprio by stating, "It is up to you to authorize in your Churches, as local Ordinaries, the use of the Missale Romanum of 1962, applying the norms of the present Motu Proprio." "Churches" implies parish churches, as that term is rarely employed for non-parish worship

sites.

Which brings us to perhaps the main point: Those of us who have been attending the Traditional Mass for a long time have lived through tougher times before in the 80s, 90s, and early 2000s. These new regulations will create some new bureaucratic hurdles for us, akin to the increase in airport security post-9/11, but we will survive. The TLM is too much of a good force in the Church today to be cast aside. The number of priests interested in learning the Traditional Mass has never been higher. The hierarchy and their advisors are not as ideologically opposed to it as they used to be pre-*Summorum*. This writer was on the front lines back then and saw the ugliness first hand.

Many bishops will see the new Motu Proprio as an act of injustice against good Catholics, even if they don't have a particular interest in the Traditional Mass. Many will be more sympathetic to us than we expect. So far the majority of bishops have indicated that existing TLM sites are to continue operating as before, at least for the time being. The bishops do not need more work and do not need to spend time on a solution to a problem which does not exist in most dioceses. As one of our local priest celebrants said, a business doesn't make it difficult for its best customers to do business with them. So let's carry on as best we can and cooperate with the authorities to make this new environment as trouble-free for all parties as possible.

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

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA TO THE LATIN MASS DIRECTORY

The second, revised edition of the Association's *Latin Mass Directory* is now being prepared by the officers. Members who want to buy it should send \$5 to the Secretary-Treasurer.

CALIFORNIA

Diocese of San Bernardino
Our Lady of Solitude Church
Palm Springs CA 92262

After the name of the pastor and celebrant of the monthly Latin Mass here, Msgr. George M. Rice, add "(LLA)"—he is now a member.

FLORIDA

Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee
St. Dominic Church
3308 East 15th Street
Panama City FL 32402
1st Sunday of every month at 7:00 AM
1962 Missal
Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. William A. Crowe.

Diocese of St. Petersburg
St. Theresa's Church
Spring Hill, Florida

The Latin Mass that used to be celebrated twice a month in the afternoon is now celebrated every Sunday at 11 AM.

MICHIGAN

Archdiocese of Detroit
Assumption Grotto Church
13770 Gratiot Avenue
Detroit MI 48205

1st Sunday of the month at 10 AM
Celebrants: Rev. Msgr. Clifford F. Sawher (LLA) & Rev. Fr. Eduard Perone (LLA).

St. Hyacinth Church
3151 Farnsworth Avenue
Detroit MI 48211

Last Sunday of the month at 10 AM.

Holy Family Church
Detroit MI

The two Sunday Latin Masses are at 9 and 11 AM. The latter is sung, and during July and August is at 10:30 A.M.

MINNESOTA

Archdiocese of St. Paul—Minneapolis
The First Friday Mass will alternate between two parishes as follows: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 651 Virginia St., St. Paul MN 55103; Masses on the First Friday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

St. Augustine Church, 302 Fifth Ave. North, South St. Paul MN 55075; Masses on the First Friday of March, May, July, September, November, and on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

NEW YORK

Diocese of Brooklyn
Annunciation Church
259 N. 5th Street, Brooklyn NY
(Take B.Q.E. to Metropolitan Avenue exit; the church is one block away.)
First Sunday of the month at 8 AM
Celebrant: Fr. Daniel Staniskis

VIRGINIA

Diocese of Richmond
St. Rose of Lima Church
2114 Bay Avenue
Hampton VA 23661
1st Sunday of the month at 3 PM
(1962 Missal)

St. Benedict Church
304 North Sheppard Street
Richmond VA 23221
(Benedictine Fathers)
1st Sunday of the month at 3 PM
(1962 Missal)

NEWSWORTHY ITEMS

1. The weekly Latin Mass at the Carmelite Chapel at 78 Yates Street in St. Catherines, Quebec, Canada, was celebrated on the last Sunday of Advent by the local ordinary, Bishop Fulton.
2. Mr. Alan Robinson recommends two fine prayer books, well produced and printed, which contain almost all the standard, traditional Catholic prayers and devotions (except the rite of Mass) in both Latin and English. They are:
 - i. *Popular Christian Devotions*, 48 pp., hard cover, pocket size, 1983, Sinag-Tala Publishers, P.O. Box 536, Greenhills Post Office, Metro Minila 3113, the Philippines.
 - ii. *A Treasury of Prayers*, 32 pp., hard cover, Scepter Booklets No. 23, Scepter, 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1103, New York City, NY 10017.

Mr. Robinson also reports that Msgr. J.F. McCarthy, Rector of the Sedes Sapientiae Seminary in Rome, has started a society for laymen called the Oblates of Holy Tradition. The Seminary's address is Sedes Sapientiae, Via Concordia 1, Roma 00183. Their American correspondent is the Marian Academy, 925 Kenrick Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

3. The Latin Mass Society of England and Wales has expelled from its membership Mr. Bill Morgan, who had declared the Holy See vacant and had tried to get a vote of support for Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre.
4. Our member Theodore Marier, K.C.S.G., has been appointed the first Justine Ward Professor of Liturgical Music at the Catholic University of America. Dr. Marier will be speaking on the current state of Gregorian Chant at our Washington Convention in June.
5. Mr. Carl Davidson writes that Luther's Latin Mass was sung at the Advent Lutheran Church, East Detroit, Michigan, on the first Sunday after Christmas at 3 PM. The ordinary and the hymns were sung in Gregorian Chant; 45 people attended. Mr. Davidson observes, "The restrictions indicated in the LLA newsletter forbidding anyone under 30 to attend the old Latin Mass are incomprehensible to us Lutherans, so used to Christian liberty in order." Of course such restrictions are rare.

