

Tridentine Community News

September 19, 2021 – Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Upcoming Pontifical Masses

Two Pontifical Masses in the Extraordinary Form are on the calendar in our region:

With apologies for the late notice, the first takes place today: Diocese of Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea will celebrate a Pontifical Low Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Extraordinary Form at St. Matthew Church in Flint today, Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM. Bishop Boyea has long been a supporter and celebrant of the Traditional Mass.

On Sunday, October 17 at 11:00 AM, Bishop Athanasius Schneider will celebrate a Pontifical Solemn Mass at the Faldstool at Assumption Grotto Church as part of that weekend's Call to Holiness conference.

Effecting Change Effectively

Since the *Motu Proprio Traditionis Custodes* was published on July 16, 2021, there has been a tremendous amount of commentary on blogs and YouTube videos about how the Catholic faithful should respond to such an unfortunate and harshly-worded document. Many commentators urge a comparably assertive, militant response to Church leaders. Unfortunately, that sort of approach has never successfully accomplished much, either for the Traditional Mass or for most any purpose, secular or religious.

Imagine, for example, that you wanted to convince city authorities to allow a certain kind of real estate development that was not permitted under the current zoning for that site. Would the best approach be to insist militantly to anyone who might listen that your concept is the one and only valid plan for that land? Or do you think a wiser methodology would be to get to know one or more of the individuals involved in city planning, and work with them cooperatively to develop a plan that will be acceptable and interesting to the various levels of authorities leading up to the required zoning change?

Few things are as cringe-inducing as reading a militant traditionalist maintain that Novus Ordo parishes and Masses are to be avoided. Where does he or she think the next TLM site will come from? Aren't most of them Ordinary Form sites to begin with? Those who want to establish a new Latin Mass site will need to attend some Novus Ordo Masses, and get to know Catholics involved with potential host parishes and chapels, in order to get the conversation going.

An August 22, 2021 post on *The Rad Trad* blog expresses this notion quite well:

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

“People who are conservative by temperament, like most men, tend to want things clear, obvious, out in the open. In a word, they naturally expect affairs to be settled openly and honestly. These are noble attributes and ones which we have inherited from the image and likeness of God, damaged though they are by our limits and the effects of Original Sin. These are not traits generally shared by

people who are good at politics or politicking. The necessity of making friends and doing the ‘art of the possible,’ rather than doing what is obviously right, is bothersome to us. At some level, the decade of ‘TLM good, Novus Ordo bad’ articles and books are directed toward this open and honest perception of human decision making, whereas the more relational method is what really creates change.”

Change in the direction desired is most effectively accomplished by working cooperatively with the parties who have control over situations and sites. The success we enjoy in metro Detroit and Windsor – now the #1 region in North America for the Traditional Latin Mass, with far more sites than any

other metro area – is due primarily to having taken this approach. Detroit went from last to first: As recently as early 2004, there were no TLMs allowed in the Archdiocese of Detroit; we were the last large diocese in the U.S. not to have an indult Mass. It was through steadily working with authorities, at the parish and diocesan level, as well as inviting individual priests to learn the TLM, that site after site began to debut the Tridentine Mass. Not one TLM location came into being because of a harsh approach, or from simply writing letters and/or blogging or creating videos about what Detroiters deserve to have.

If you want to see the Traditional Mass spread, regardless of what the top-level breezes from the Vatican seem to indicate at the moment, the strategy remains the same: Visit parishes and chapels that you think would make good sites for the TLM. Get to know the priests, the parishioners, and key members of the staff. Help devise a plan that will make the first TLM(s) a success, both in attendance and financially to the host organization. And get ready to do some work yourself, from publicity to hospitality to assembling the team that can make the Mass happen.

[Photo of stained glass of Christ the King at St. Thomas Aquinas Church / Newman Center at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln]

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 09/21 6:00 PM: High Mass at *Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth* (St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist) – Celebrant: Fr. Jake Van Assche

