

Tridentine Community News

November 7, 2021 – Resumed Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

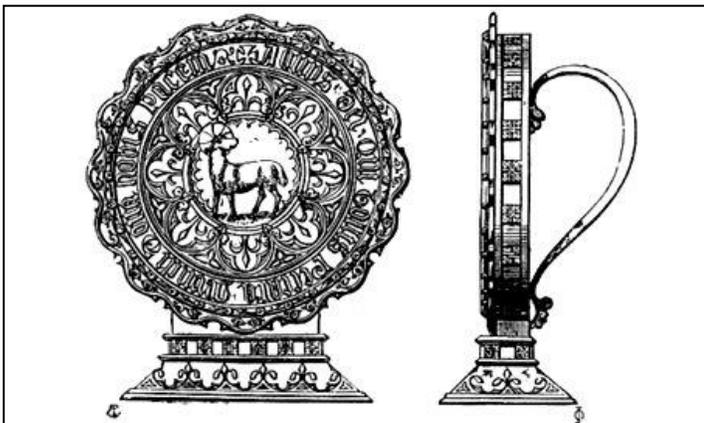
More About the Agatha Christie Indult

This column has many times mentioned the groundbreaking indult issued by Pope St. Paul VI in 1971 which reauthorized celebration of the Traditional Mass in England and Wales. Known as the “Agatha Christie Indult,” because His Holiness supposedly approved the petition to reinstate the Mass after seeing that one of his favorite authors was a signatory, this document set the precedent for the future 1984 indult, *Quattuor Abhinc Annos*, which extended this permission to the whole world.

The current edition of *Gregorius Magnus*, the magazine published by Una Voce International, contains an extensive history of the Agatha Christie Indult, along with some fascinating information about (unsuccessful) petitions for similar indults in the pre-*Summorum Pontificum* world. Well worth a read. The issue is available on-line at:

https://lms.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource_documents/gregmag/winter2021web.pdf

The Pax Brede or Osculatorium



PAX, FROM A DRAWING OF THE LATE MR. WELBY PUGIN.

PAX.—A small tablet of ivory, of wood overlaid with gold or silver, or of some inferior metal, used in the Western Church for giving the kiss of peace during the offering of the Christian Sacrifice. It is sometimes adorned with a representation of the Annunciation, the institution of the Blessed Sacrament, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection of our Lord, or of His Ascension. Several old examples exist. That in the engraving here given, a remarkable specimen of beaten and engraved work, is from the pen of the late Mr. Welby Pugin.—See **OSCULATORIUM**.

At a Solemn High Tridentine Mass, after the first of the three Prayers Before Holy Communion, the celebrant offers the Sign of Peace to the Deacon, after which it is passed on to the Subdeacon, the Master of Ceremonies, the Thurifer, and the Acolytes. Unlike in the Ordinary Form, the Sign of Peace is not passed on to the congregation; it is a formal process reflecting the Peace of Christ being given from one to another, as our Lord commanded, with little relationship to the notion of secular friendship.

The “giver” and the “receiver” approach one another with palms together and bow to one another. The giver places his palms on the receiver’s shoulders, while the receiver places his palms under the giver’s elbows. Both nod their heads to the right of the other as

the giver says “*Pax tecum*” [Peace be with you]. The receiver replies “*Et cum spiritu tuo*” [And with your spirit]. Both join their hands as at the beginning, bow to one another, and depart.

When Holy Mass is celebrated by a priest in the presence of a Greater Prelate (i.e. a Bishop or higher), an different version of the ceremony may be performed. An object alternatively known as a *Pax Brede*, [simply] a *Pax*, or an *Osculatorium*, is held by a server in front of the receiver. This object resembles a larger reliquary, often with a handle on the back. In the absence of a proper Pax Brede, a priest’s paten may be used instead. The receiver kisses the Pax Brede, then the server wipes it with a linen cloth and presents it to the next receiver. The first receiver is always the celebrant and the second the Prelate. This version of the rite places emphasis on the peace that comes from the presence of and reverence towards Christ.

After almost 40 years of attending Tridentine Masses, this writer only recalls seeing a Pax Brede used once, at Merton College Chapel at Oxford University during the C.I.E.L. 2006 Conference. One might logically ask whether they are still being manufactured. The answer is no as a catalog item, but yes as a custom piece: the Dominicans’ Holy Rosary Church in Portland, Oregon had some made several years ago.

More on this subject was recently posted on the Liturgical Arts Journal blog: <https://www.liturgicalartsjournal.com/2021/09/the-pax-osculatorium-or-tabula-pacis.html>

King City, California Priest Training Report



Fr. German Rodriguez, Administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in King City, California, celebrated his first Traditional Latin Mass on Friday, October 22, 2021, after training from Extraordinary Faith. Fr. Rodriguez is joining the roster of priests from the Diocese of Monterey who will be serving the Extraordinary Form community at Sacred Heart Church in Hollister. Fr. Rodriguez has long wanted to offer the Tridentine Mass, to be in continuity with centuries of priests before him. Special thanks to Fr. Joshua Clifton for arranging this training.

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