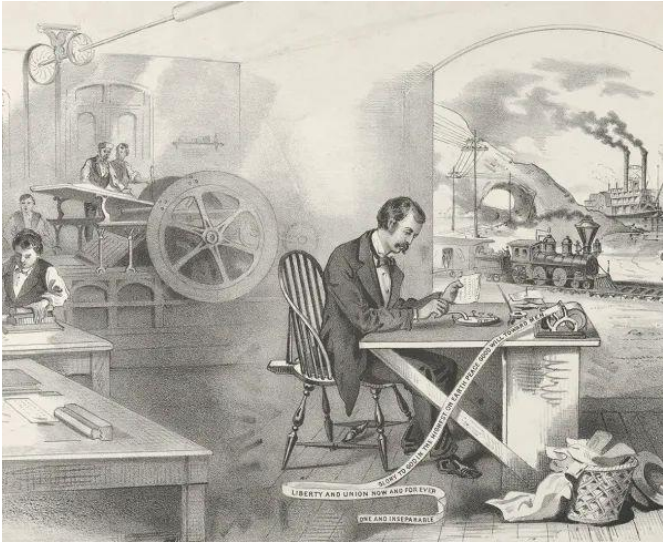


Tridentine Community News

February 5, 2023 – Septuagésima Sunday

The Traditional Blessing of a Telegraph



Recently Fr. Derik Peterman was asked to bless a cell phone. He decided to see if there was anything fitting in the Traditional Roman Ritual, and lo and behold, he discovered that the Blessing of a Telegraph was surprisingly appropriate. And so we present here the English translation of the blessing. Note that the rubrics of the Ritual require the blessing to be prayed in Latin.

This example further proves a point made in previous editions of this column, that an expanded version of the *Ritualé*, incorporating blessings of more recent inventions written in a style consistent with the existing traditional blessings, would be a valuable addition to the Church's treasury.

From the nearest church or from another place previously appointed, the clergy proceed in solemn manner to the telegraph station, chanting or reciting:

Canticle of Zachary (Luke 1. 68-79)

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel...

Arriving at the station, the priest designated for the blessing intones:

Antiphon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot, and walkest on the wings of the winds; Who usest the winds for Thy messengers, and flaming fire for Thy ministers.

Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul. My Lord and my God, how mighty is Thy creation!...

Antiphon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Who makest the clouds Thy chariot...

✠. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

✠. Who made heaven and earth.

✠. The Lord be with you.

✠. And with thy spirit.

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

Let us pray.

Grant to Thy servants, O Lord God, we beseech Thee, continual enjoyment of health in soul and body; and by the wondrous intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, free us from sorrow in the present, and reward us with joy in eternity. Through Christ our Lord.

✠. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, Thou walkest upon the wings of the wind, and Thou alone workest wonders! By the power inherent in this metal, Thou dost bring hither distant things quicker than lightning, and transferest present things to distant places. Therefore, grant that instructed by new inventions, we may merit, by Thy bounteous grace, to come with greater certainty and facility to Thee. Through Christ our Lord.

✠. Amen.

The telegraph-instrument is sprinkled with holy water.

Octave of Prayer for Church Unity

In a January 14, 2023 e-mail blast, Ann Arbor Tridentine Mass organizer Joe Lipa provided the following explanation of a mostly forgotten Catholic observance:

In 1909, Pope St. Pius X approved and blessed an [Octave of Prayer for Church Unity](#) from January 18 through January 25, feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Each day of the Octave has a specific intention, asking God for the conversion of a certain group to the Catholic Church:

- **Jan. 18:** For the return of the “other sheep” to the One Fold of our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Jan. 19:** For the return of the Eastern Orthodox Christians to communion with the Apostolic See
- **Jan. 20:** For the return of the Anglicans to the authority of the Vicar of Christ
- **Jan. 21:** For the return of all Protestants throughout the world to the unity of the Catholic Church
- **Jan. 22:** That Christians in America may be one, in union with the Chair of Saint Peter
- **Jan. 23:** That lapsed Catholics will return to the Sacraments of the Church
- **Jan. 24:** That the Jewish people will be converted to the Catholic Faith
- **Jan. 25:** That missionary zeal will conquer the world for Christ

A far cry from the modern, politically correct “[Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#),” the traditional Octave perfectly expresses the timeless Catholic teaching, summed up clearly by Pope Pius XI in his encyclical [Mortalium Animos](#), that “the union of Christians can only be promoted by promoting the return to the one true Church of Christ of those who are separated from it”. This upcoming Octave is an excellent opportunity for us to pray not only for the specified intentions, but also for the recovery of the Church's missionary spirit so weakened today by religious indifferentism and false ecumenism.