

Tridentine Community News

May 21, 2023 – Sunday After the Ascension

The Macchine delle Quarant'Ore

Have you ever run across photos like the below, depicting an elaborate Forty Hours Devotion arrangement in a church known for ornate liturgy, such as the London Oratory [pictured, photo by Charles Cole] or the FSSP's Santissima Trinità dei Pellegrini in Rome? It turns out that this arrangement has a name.



An article in Issue 42 (from 2022) of *Sacred Architecture* magazine explains that these structures are called the *macchine delle Quarant'Ore*, the “machines of the Forty Hours.” Historically these were temporary and destroyed after they were finished being used each year. More likely today churches that regularly offer such elaborate setups employ more sturdy and reusable components.

The notion of a Forty Hours Devotion refers to the forty hours that our Lord lay in the tomb, from Good Friday to Easter Sunday. The practice originated in Milan in the 1520s and was mentioned during the Council of Trent.

Today as the U.S. bishops embark on an effort to promote Eucharistic piety, we cannot help but think that a vivid liturgical demonstration of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, from a realistically attainable Solemn Benediction all the way up to an elaborate Forty Hours Devotion, would do much to inculcate reverence towards our Eucharistic Lord. These time-tested undertakings fostered belief in the Real Presence for centuries and are just as effective today.

The Traditional Blessing of an Apartment

You may be aware of the traditional blessing of a house. But are you aware that there is also a specific blessing for an apartment? Once again, the Traditional Roman Ritual requires that the actual blessing be prayed in Latin; the English is supplied only for reference.

✠ Adjutórium nostrum in nómine Dómini.

℟. Qui fecit cælum et terram.

✠ Dóminus vobíscum.

℟. Et cum spírítu tuo.

Orémus.

Béne✠dic, Dómine, Deus omnípotens, locum istum (vel domum istam): ut sit in eo (ea) sánitas, cástitas, victória, virtus, humilitas, bónitás, et mansuetúdo, plenitúdo legis, et gratiárum áctio Deo Patri, et Filio, et Spírítui Sancto; et hæc benedictio máneat super hunc locum (vel super hanc domum) et super habitántes in eo (ea) nunc et in ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

℟. Amen.

[It is sprinkled with Holy Water.]

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

℟. Who made heaven and earth.

✠. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Bless, ✠ O Lord, almighty God this place (or dwelling) that it be the shelter of health, chastity, self-conquest, humility, goodness, mildness, obedience to the commandments, and thanksgiving to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. May blessing remain for all time on this place (or on this dwelling) and them that live here.

℟. Amen.

[It is sprinkled with Holy Water.]

Weekday Masses at Holy Family, Detroit

Before heading to downtown Detroit for one of the 12:00 Noon Low Masses held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at Holy Family Church, please check their web site, www.hfdet.org. Fr. Paul Ward is not infrequently away, and substitute celebrants are not arranged. Any last-minute cancellations and planned absences are listed on their web site.

Notably, there will no Mass at Holy Family on Sunday, June 4; on weekdays from June 12 – 30; and on weekdays from July 30 – August 8.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Sun. 05/28 2:00 PM: Solemn High Mass at *St. Benedict/St. Alphonsus, Windsor* (Pentecost Sunday) – Debut of newly-made solemn red vestment set. May Crowning and Procession follows Mass.