

# Tridentine Community News

December 10, 2023 – Second Sunday of Advent

## *Detroit Seminarian Schola Sings at St. John Resort TLM*



Ten seminarians from Detroit's Sacred Heart Major Seminary offered to forego part of their Thanksgiving break to sing for the monthly Third Tuesday Traditional Latin Mass at the St. John Resort Chapel on November 21. They were invited to do so by seminary music instructor Ruth Lapeyre, and conducted at Mass by Fr. Eduard Perrone. Readers may recall that three weeks ago this column reported on seminarians from San Francisco's St. Patrick Seminary singing for a (Novus Ordo) Latin Mass. We should be grateful that these young men are seeking to learn the musical treasures of the Church, especially Gregorian Chant.

## *Ópera Artis:*

### *Vatican Cautions Against Church Wreckovation*

A recent tweet by church architect Eric Bootsma brought to our attention a little-known Vatican document called *Ópera Artis*. Issued by the Congregation for the Clergy in April, 1971, this document sought to curb the then-growing phenomenon of church wreckovation. One sample paragraph:

“Disregarding the warnings and legislation of the Holy See, (5) many people have made unwarranted changes in places of worship under the pretext of carrying out the reform of the liturgy and have thus caused the disfigurement or loss of priceless works of art.”

It goes on to urge “utmost caution” in remodeling of churches, and preservation of sacred art.

The document was ignored by most dioceses, and wreckovations continued until the age of the internet. As architectural and artistic beauty have once again come into vogue through visibility to the masses, we are now witnessing far more restoration and new construction in a traditional style than wreckovation. The Church evangelizes in part through beauty, and a new generation of architects, artisans, and pastors have embraced traditional designs as construction projects are undertaken.

While this document is, interestingly, not available on the Vatican web site (though it is referenced by other documents there), you can read it here: <https://adoremus.org/2007/12/opera-artis/>

## *Historic Photos of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral*

Over the years numerous photos have been posted on the internet of Detroit's Blessed Sacrament Cathedral prior to its two remodelings in the 1960s and 1990s. In recent weeks two heretofore unseen photos were posted, one of the original High Altar and Bishop's Throne, and one of the original Side Altar in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. That Side Altar gained fame when Pope St. John Paul II paused for prayer before it during his visit to the cathedral in 1987.



## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

Sun. 12/17 10:00 AM: High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (Third Sunday of Advent) – Celebrant: Fr. Michael Suhy

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail [info@windsorlatinmass.org](mailto:info@windsorlatinmass.org). Previous columns are available at [www.windsorlatinmass.org](http://www.windsorlatinmass.org).