

# Tridentine Community News

March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

## *The Fruitlessness of Petitions and Arguments*

A sincere question: Have you ever heard of an on-line petition, via change.org or some similar web site, being successful in convincing authorities in any diocese to implement or reinstate a traditional Catholic practice? Every such petition this writer has ever seen has failed to produce the desired outcome. On those few occasions when a particular sought-after practice was approved, authorities were more likely convinced by personal lobbying or some other means besides the on-line petition. If you know of a successful petition effort truly attributable to the petition itself, e-mail the address at the bottom of this page, and the successful effort will be mentioned in a future column. Even if it turns out that some efforts have been successful, such an outcome is unquestionably, and unfortunately, very rare.

This is not a new development. Before the era of the Internet, even written petitions sent to dioceses were generally ignored. One infamous submission of hundreds of signatures to the Archdiocese of Detroit by Una Voce Detroit asking for an indult Tridentine Mass circa 2000 was thrown into the trash by diocesan authorities. (Side bar: This is obviously a lesson to keep photocopies of all signatures received and submitted.)

One exception is when you are specifically asked to submit a petition: In 2012 when Archbishop Vigneron asked the founders of the Oakland County Latin Mass Association to ask Rome to approve the formation of the OCLMA, the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei requested that at least 100 signatures supporting this endeavor be submitted to them. Once those signatures had been gathered and submitted, the PCED wrote Archbishop Vigneron, essentially directing him to establish a Tridentine Mass site in Oakland County.



Likewise, there are those who enjoy engaging in debates and arguments, on-line or in person, over theological topics. While it's understandable that one or perhaps both parties in the discussion might enjoy a good intellectual debate, it's not the most likely method to convert souls to the Catholic Faith. Again, a sincere question: Do you

know of anyone who was converted to Catholicism, or even to traditional Catholic practices, because of a debate? E-mail us if you do.

While filling out such petitions or engaging in argumentation may feel good, as though you are doing something to advance sacred tradition, in reality your efforts are far more likely to be rewarded if you slowly and gradually speak to laypeople and clerical authorities, gently and calmly, and demonstrate why you love tradition, whether in liturgy or otherwise. Many, including this writer, converted or reverted to the Faith after exposure to sacred beauty. Recently a newcomer to the St. Benedict Tridentine Mass at Windsor's St. Alphonsus Church told this writer that he felt like "dancing on the roof" after a Sunday Tridentine Mass because of

the sheer beauty of the liturgy and its music. Traditional Catholicism is full of beauty, in its doctrine, its sacred art and music, and the texts of its prayers. As demonstrated in last week's column about Las Vegas, your likelihood of attracting souls to the Faith has a higher chance of payoff from time you invest in efforts showcasing beauty at the grass roots parish/church/chapel level.

## *Recent Saginaw Latin Mass Community Outreach*

While this news is a little late, kudos are still due to the Saginaw Latin Mass Community at Holy Family Church for two recent outreach efforts. First, they were given attention in the National Catholic Register for a night of Eucharistic devotion.

Second, they invited students from St. Mary University Parish at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant to attend a recent Sunday High Mass. Clever efforts like these may introduce people to the TLM who may never have been exposed to it before.

A yellow rectangular graphic with a white border. At the top, the Latin phrase "AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM" is written in a semi-circle around a white dove. Below this, the text "JOIN US AT A LATIN MASS" is centered in a large, white, serif font. Underneath, there is a paragraph of text: "On January 28th, a group will be going to Mass at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church in Saginaw". Below that, another paragraph: "Carpool will be leaving St. Mary's at 1:15 p.m.". At the bottom, a third paragraph: "If you are interested in attending, email Fr. Matt at [frmatt@stmarycmu.org](mailto:frmatt@stmarycmu.org)". To the right of the text is a white illustration of a chalice.

## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

**Sun. 03/17 10:00 AM:** High Mass at *Old St. Mary's* (Passion Sunday) – Celebrant: Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ

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).