

# Tridentine Community News

July 27, 2025 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

## *The “Prague Spring” of the Archdiocese of Detroit*

The term “Prague Spring” refers to the time period of January – August, 1968, after Alexander Dubček was elected leader of Czechoslovakia. He enacted reforms that resulted in a few months of relative liberalization of the Communist stronghold on the country. Citizens enjoyed greater freedom of speech and travel, and democratization of certain aspects of government administration. It was a happy and encouraging time for those citizens, but short-lived: Soviet troops were sent in to occupy the country and crush the reforms. Czechoslovakia returned to a more harsh political environment until the Soviet system collapsed in 1989.

Looking back on the years 2007 – 2025, those of us in the Archdiocese of Detroit enjoyed our own version of the Prague Spring, as the issuance of *Summórum Pontificum* took us from last place to first in number of Tridentine Masses in North America. In early 2007 there was only one authorized TLM in the AOD, at St. Josaphat Church in Detroit. After *Summórum*, the number grew to 28 sites, some of which only offered the TLM on special occasions. It was a happy time for those devoted to the Traditional Mass, with many special events and conferences. Perhaps the most noteworthy highlight was the amazing success of Juventútem Michigan, the young adults group: While under the leadership of Paul Schultz, Juventútem organized last Friday of the month TLMs at countless churches across southeastern Michigan, many of which would never have considered hosting the Old Rite before, but who opened their doors once they heard the siren call of “young adults.” Who could ever have guessed that Juventútem would be successful in arranging *two* Tridentine Masses at Detroit’s Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, for example?

The July 1, 2025 cancellation of all but four TLM sites in the AOD is our own version of the Soviet clampdown, but much as in that situation, it’s hard to imagine the suppression of the Traditional Latin Mass enduring. The immense spiritual good that flows from the TLM, not only here in metro Detroit but globally, is bound to pay dividends over the long term. Just as the Czech Republic flourishes in freedom today since the end of the Soviet era, so does logic tell us that after this period of trial, we have a lasting and fruitful future to look forward to with regards to the Latin Mass.

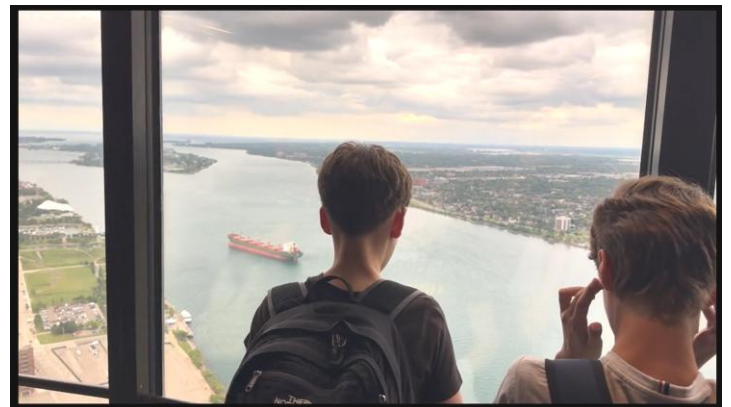
## *London Oratory Schola Visit a Success*

The visit of the London Oratory Schola to Detroit was a somewhat risky endeavor. Detailed arrangements had been made...flights, hotel, bus rental, meals, and rather extensive advertising for the concert. Nonetheless, one never knows whether anyone will show up. But in the end, there was no need to worry: Over 275 souls attended the Schola’s concert at Old St. Mary’s Church on Friday, July 18. The splendid acoustics of the church provided an ideal setting for the ethereal sounds of one of the world’s most renowned boys’ choirs.

While in town, the boys got a taste of our region by touring downtown Detroit (photos of St. Aloysius Church and the view

from the top of the Ren Cen, adjacent), visiting Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum, and taking the Rouge Factory Tour. Watch the Day 3 video on this page to see their tour of Detroit and the Day 4 video to hear superb audio of their concert:

<https://www.londonoratoryschola.com/usa-tour-2025>



## *Tridentine Masses This Coming Week*

Tue. 07/29 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Martha, Virgin)

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).