

Tridentine Community News

October 12, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Founders of Detroit and Windsor's Original TLMs *Part 2 of 2*

The lay founders of the Windsor Tridentine Mass Association, the predecessor entity to today's St. Benedict Tridentine Community, were Canadians Ray Cameron and Brad Nelson, and the late American Thomas Marshall. Original members from 1991 who still attend to this day include John Foot, Caroline Laprise, and Michel Ozorak. It was their foresight and cooperative cross-border and cross-diocese spirit that laid the groundwork for the metro Detroit Tridentine Mass scene of today that, until July 1 of this year, sported more TLM sites than any metro area in the world.

Particular credit must be given to the hardworking late Treasurer of the Windsor Latin Mass community, the late Murray Harris. Over the years, Murray helped out in just about every way imaginable, ranging from sacristan to usher. Perhaps his most memorable effort was learning how to use a computer at a not-so-young age, and the esoteric Quark Xpress software, no less, to produce the original weekly Propers Handouts that set the example for the ones we publish today.



In contrast to the friendly Diocese of London, Ontario, the Archdiocese of Detroit actively fought lay efforts to start an Indult TLM. It was the last large diocese in the U.S. not to have a Tridentine Mass. That all changed in 2004 when an enterprising native Detroiter and then-seminarian of the FSSP, Cortney Robinson, who had previously been a diplomat for the U.S. State Department in Jordan, took it upon himself to lobby priests throughout the AOD and try to make them more receptive to allowing the TLM. Ultimately he and this writer were successful in persuading Cardinal Dario Castrillón Hoyos, then head of the Pontifical Commission Ecclesia Dei, to twist the arm of then-Detroit Archbishop Cardinal Adam Maida during the latter's *ad limina* visit to Rome in 2004, to finally allow a TLM in the AOD.



Though many priests in the AOD were interested in hosting or celebrating the Traditional Mass, only one priest really did all the right things to make that happen: Fr. Mark Borkowski, then-pastor/administrator of Sweetest Heart of Mary and St. Josaphat Parishes in Detroit, offered the Archdiocese the use of the underutilized St. Josaphat Church as the home of the first Indult Mass, which debuted on the first Sunday of

October, 2004. Fr. Borkowski created a pro-tradition, pro-old customs, pro-sacred music environment at St. Josaphat. He invited numerous young priests and seminarians to learn and celebrate the TLM there. Immediately upon the issuance of *Summórum Pontificum* in 2007, Fr. Borkowski added the TLM to the Mass schedule at his third parish, St. Joseph Church (now Shrine), where the TLM still flourishes today. He introduced many customs that endure to this day all over the region, including offering High Masses on weekdays when a Credo is specified in

the calendar, and offering Requiem Masses, the Daily Mass for the Dead, on Fourth Class weekdays. He is also the person who encouraged this writer to begin publishing this weekly news column back in 2006. Currently pastor of Our Lady of the Scapular Parish in Wyandotte, Fr. Borkowski until July 1 continued to offer the TLM at his parish.

Though he technically pre-dated the era of the TLM in the Archdiocese of Detroit, special credit must be given to the late Richard Langrell. Originally the Master of Ceremonies at Old St. Mary's Church, relocating to St. Joseph Church around 1983, Dick arguably pioneered the Latin Mass movement in Detroit. Accepting that a TLM was not yet permissible in the AOD, Dick resolved to organize the most TLM-like Novus Ordo Latin Masses he could, with elaborate music programs. He even coordinated a legendary 1982 simulcast of a Christmas Eve Midnight Latin Mass at Old St. Mary's on WDIV-TV, Channel 4, and a local FM radio station.

Dick trained legions of boys and men to serve at the altar. A retired dispatcher for the Detroit Fire Department, Dick had the demeanor of a professor: a patient teacher, yet fearless to insist that priests and servers alike follow the rubrics of the Mass exactly as Rome specified. Dick trained from memorized rubrics; reference books like Bishop Peter Elliott's *Ceremonies of the Modern Roman Rite* had not yet been published. Dick gained his knowledge directly from studying the (Latin) rubrics in the Novus Ordo *Missale Romanum*.



We have Dick to thank for the fact that the Latin Masses at St. Joseph remained *ad orientem* in a time of political opposition. Dick was responsible for convincing St. Joseph's then-pastor Fr. Thomas Bresnahan to hold solemn processions of the Blessed Sacrament, with two thuribles. The traditionally-celebrated Ordinary Form Latin Masses that people experience today at Assumption Grotto are indirectly attributable to Dick's work: Fr. Perrone was the weekend assistant at St. Joseph for many years in the 1980s and witnessed and learned from Dick's exacting standards.

Dick Langrell sadly did not live to see his dream fulfilled that the Tridentine Mass return to the Archdiocese of Detroit. One of his happiest moments was attending the (Tridentine) First Mass of a newly ordained priest in 1998 at Windsor's Assumption Church, which in 2007 became the home of Windsor's Latin Mass Community (until 2014). Days before he passed away in 2003, Dick took great solace in learning that Windsor's TLM had moved into a "real" church, St. Michael's, from its previous humble nursing home chapel location.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 10/14 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr)

Sun. 10/19: No Mass at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel*

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