

Tridentine Community News

May 3, 2026 – Fourth Sunday After Easter

The Just War Doctrine Part 2 of 2

By James Murphy

Development in Church Teaching

Later Church documents, including the Catechism of the Catholic Church, reaffirm and refine these principles. The Catechism (sections 2307–2317) emphasizes that modern warfare, with its destructive capacity, makes the bar for a just war even higher.

Recent popes have also expressed deep caution. While not rejecting the doctrine, they stress that in the modern age, especially with nuclear weapons, the conditions for a just war are rarely met.

Key Tensions and Challenges

The Just War Doctrine is not without difficulty:

- **Modern Weapons:** The scale of destruction makes proportionality harder to maintain.
- **Civilian Risk:** Total war blurs the line between combatants and non-combatants.
- **Political Abuse:** Leaders may claim “just cause” for unjust motives.

For these reasons, the Church insists on rigorous moral scrutiny and the formation of conscience.

Conclusion

Traditional Catholic Just War Doctrine is fundamentally about restraint. It acknowledges that while war may sometimes be necessary, it is always a last resort and must be governed by moral law.

At its core, the doctrine seeks to balance two realities: the duty to resist evil and the command to love one’s neighbor. When properly applied, it serves not as a justification for violence, but as a moral barrier against it, ensuring that even in conflict, human dignity is not forgotten.

Historic Photos of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral and Benedictine High School

The Facebook group *I Went to Catholic School in Metro Detroit* continues to showcase numerous fascinating photos of Catholic life prior to Vatican II, often taken from school yearbooks. Two recent examples:

A March 21, 2026 post featured this photo of Detroit’s Blessed Sacrament Cathedral during the 1955-56 school year:

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



On March 19, 2026 a post about Detroit’s Benedictine High School included the below photo from 1960:



Benedictine High was located at Outer Drive and the Southfield Freeway and was run by the Silvestrine Benedictines who staffed the adjacent St. Scholastica Parish, most notably including longtime pastor Fr. Livius Paoli, O.S.B., who served the parish before and after the Council. This writer attended St. Scholastica’s elementary school from 1967-68 and recalls that the school was staffed almost entirely by Adrian Dominican sisters. Masses at the parish were entirely in English according to the transitional 1965/67 missal.

More photos from this group will be posted next week.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 05/05 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Pius V, Pope & Confessor)