

Tridentine Community News

July 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Tridentine Travelogue: Ss. Peter & Paul, Wilmington, California



During a recent visit to Los Angeles, this writer attended Sunday Mass at one of its most beautiful historic churches, Ss. Peter & Paul, in the southern suburb of Wilmington, near Long Beach. Ss. Peter & Paul has long been a home to quality liturgy, beginning with a Sunday Novus Ordo Mass in the 1990s. The Norbertine Fathers took over the parish in 2006, introducing Norbertine Rite Traditional Masses, first on occasional Sundays, then weekly, and now daily. A choir was formed to provide suitable musical accompaniment for these TLMs, and attendance has soared to about 400. For more information about the parish, visit: <https://www.wilmingtoncatholic.org/>

Fun fact: In 2017, while Detroit's Michael Semaan was still able to offer Traditional Latin Masses as part of his Prayer Pilgrimages bus tour operation, a group of altar servers from Windsor's St. Benedict Tridentine Community traveled to California to assist with the TLMs offered during one of his tours, including one held in this very same Ss. Peter & Paul Church. We learned that the main difference between a Norbertine Rite Mass and a Traditional Latin Rite Mass was that the celebrant holds his arms outstretched after the Consecration during the second half of the Canon.

New Abbot for the California Norbertines

Remaining on the subject of the Norbertines in Southern California, a subtle but significant change has been made at one of North America's largest and most prominent monasteries: St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado Canyon, California has elected Fr. John Caronan as its third Abbot. The Norbertine priests of St. Michael's Abbey are the most prominent celebrants of the Traditional Latin Mass in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Diocese of Orange, California. However, both at their present abbey and their former, smaller abbey, the TLM has not been celebrated in the main abbey church. Rather, ever since it was established as a weekly Sunday Mass in response to the *Traditionis Custodes*-inspired cancellation of the well-attended weekly Noon Mass at St. Mary by the Sea Parish in Huntington Beach, it has been relegated to the cemetery chapel on the

property. This is largely because the previous Abbot, Eugene Hayes, while not an opponent of the TLM, had little personal interest in it.

Abbot Elect John, however, has been one of the Norbertines' most prominent celebrants of the TLM all over Southern California. Not surprisingly, one of his first acts after his election on June 19 was to move the weekly Sunday 12:00 Noon Norbertine Rite Traditional Mass out of the cemetery chapel and into the main Abbey church and make it a Solemn High Mass with Deacon and Subdeacon every week. It is not an unreasonable conclusion that his brother religious elected him in part with the expectation that the Traditional Mass would assume a more prominent place in their monastery.



As a side note, we have heard over the years that similar reasoning explains why the Traditional Mass has not been given a more prominent place in the schedule of the London Oratory. It is only given a Low Mass slot, no choral accompaniment, despite its high attendance. Until a greater percentage of the priests in residence there desire a higher profile for the TLM, it will remain in second place.

Bishops Welcome the Latin Mass Faithful

One of the not terribly surprising but nonetheless encouraging aftermaths of the July 1 SSPX Consecrations was the welcoming on the part of several bishops of the faithful to attend their diocesan TLMs, and/or their urging Pope Leo to rescind *Traditionis Custodes* and return to the freedoms of *Summorum Pontificum*. Some of the bishops who have voiced their opinions include:

Cardinal Gerhard Müller, former Prefect of the Dicastery of the Doctrine of the Faith

Cardinal Kurt Koch of Switzerland, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity

Cardinal Antonio María Rouco Varela, Archbishop Emeritus of Madrid, Spain

Archbishop Georg Gänswein, former Secretary of Pope Benedict XVI

Bishop Fredrik Hansen of Oslo, Norway

Bishop Terry LaValley of Ogdensburg, New York

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 07/14 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary* (St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)

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