

Tridentine Community News

August 30, 2026 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The Nine Choirs of Angels According to Sacred Scripture and Traditional Catholic Theology Part 2 of 2

By James Murphy

THE CELESTIAL ORDER

FIRST HIERARCHY — GOD:

Seraphim — Love • Cherubim — Knowledge • Thrones — Judgment

SECOND HIERARCHY — GOVERNMENT:

Dominations — Command • Virtues — Strength • Powers — Order

THIRD HIERARCHY — CREATION:

Principalities — Nations • Archangels — Great Missions • Angels — Individuals

The exact description of every choir's function is principally traditional theological teaching rather than a solemn definition concerning each individual office. Nevertheless, the ninefold hierarchy is deeply rooted in Scripture and was received and explained by major authorities of Catholic tradition, particularly Pseudo-Dionysius, St. Gregory the Great, and St. Thomas Aquinas.

The traditional Roman Liturgy itself reflects this celestial order, joining the Church's worship to that of the angels: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts." The angels exist not to draw attention to themselves but to lead creation toward its Creator. As the angel told St. John: "Adore God" (Apoc. 22:9).

Principal Sources: Sacred Scripture: Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:18–22; Tob. 12:15; Is. 6:1–7; Dan. 10; Matt. 18:10; Luke 1:26–38; Eph. 1:21; Col. 1:16; Jude 9; Apoc. 12:7. Fourth Lateran Council, Firmiter credimus. First Vatican Council, Dei Filius. Pseudo-Dionysius, De Coelesti Hierarchia. St. Gregory the Great, Homiliae in Evangelia, Hom. 34. St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologiae, I, especially q. 108.

Vocations from the Ann Arbor Latin Mass Community

By Joe Lipa

Last year we had the joy of announcing that two young people deeply involved with the Ann Arbor TLM Community had decided to pursue vocations to the priesthood and religious life within traditional communities: Connor Lennon, soon to be beginning his second year of formation with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) and Sr. Teresa Skrobola, a postulant with the Filiae Laboris Mariae who next month will receive the habit and begin her novitiate. Please continue to keep Connor and Sr. Teresa in your prayers as they strive to follow God's calling.

This year we are excited to share that two additional young men connected to our TLM Community will begin pursuing the priesthood, both as seminarians for the Diocese of Lansing: Patrick Lennon, Connor's older



brother, who is also a server at the TLM at St. Thomas [the Apostle Parish, pictured]; and Vincent Restuccia, another regular at the TLM at St. Thomas, whose family was also instrumental in supporting the celebrations of the TLM begun by Fr. Gerald [Gawronski] at Old St. Patrick [Parish] in 2010.

Regarding his spiritual journey and the role the TLM has played, Patrick writes:

"I am very grateful that I get the chance to discern the priesthood this upcoming year. I am also grateful for the TLM here at St. Thomas because it helped me grow in deeper intimacy with Jesus. One of my favorite aspects of the TLM is how contemplative it is, especially during the choir's singing of the Gradual and Alleluia when I typically engage in interior conversation with Our Lord and witness His Unconditional Love for me. Encountering Jesus through daily mental prayer and the sacraments, I have found peace to take a step towards discerning the priesthood. Please pray for me."

As both young men prepare to enter Sacred Heart Seminary later this month, Vincent writes:

"Our very grateful thanks to all who are keeping us in your prayers. God's work is never done, and while the harvest is abundant, the laborers are few. As we progress in discernment, know that we, too, are praying for you, the parishioners of St. Thomas, Fr. Ashbaugh and all our priests and religious, and for Pope Leo and Holy Mother Church. God bless you all!"

Our Lord said, "By their fruits, you shall know them." Despite much talk in recent decades of a "vocations crisis," these TLM-inspired vocations continue to demonstrate the abundant fruitfulness of God's grace when His seeds are nurtured in an environment where the traditional liturgy is known and loved, holiness is modeled and encouraged, and souls are effectively and gently pastored. Deo gratias!

Editor's note: Known to many of our readers, the Skrobola and Restuccia families, related by marriage, have been active promoters of the Traditional Latin Mass going back to the early 1990s, when they were both involved in the ad orientem Novus Ordo Latin Masses then offered at St. Joseph Shrine in Detroit.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 09/01 7:00 PM: Low Requiem Mass at *St. Benedict/Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

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