

Tridentine Community News

July 25, 2010

LLA Recap – A Whirlwind Weekend

After almost two years of planning, the Latin Liturgy Association National Convention is finally over. It was one of the most memorable events ever to have happened on the local Latin Mass scene.

Friday's bus tour was sold out. On Saturday, the hall at St. Joseph was filled with over 110 people, many more than we expected for the talks, which covered a variety of subjects. The Sunday Pontifical Mass had over 430 in attendance. Considering the modest advertising that was done for this conference, it is clear that interest in the Latin Mass, both Ordinary and Extraordinary Forms, is growing, locally and across North America.

The music programs at each of the liturgies were outstanding: Friday's Vespers at Assumption-Windsor under the direction of Wassim Sarweh, Saturday's Ordinary Form Latin Mass at St. Joseph under the direction of Michael Semaan, Saturday's Vespers at St. Albertus under the direction of Dr. Steven Ball and Dr. David Saunders, Sunday's Benediction led by Joe Balistreri, and, of course, Sunday's Pontifical Mass under the direction of Wassim Sarweh. The latter featured the combined choirs of St. Josaphat and Assumption-Windsor, plus volunteer singers from our parishes and guest singers from Assumption Grotto and Ann Arbor's St. Thomas the Apostle Church. We were also privileged to have Montreal soprano Melinda Enns join us with her "angel's voice", as one of our readers terms it.

Some of the English-speaking world's most accomplished Latin Mass music directors attended the conference. One of them with conference-organizing experience was particularly complimentary. While some of us look up to Chicago with its 14 Extraordinary Form Mass sites, one attendee from Chicago told us that yes, they have quantity, but Detroit has the quality. Well, of course, isn't Quality Job 1 around here?

CDs and DVDs of the talks and the Pontifical Mass will be available from Ferndale's St. Michael's Media; details to follow.

Thanks To Our Volunteers

A cross-parish, cross-diocese, indeed cross-national group of volunteers planned and executed this conference in conjunction with the LLA Board. It is impossible to list the names of all of those who gave so generously of their time and goods to make everything happen. With apologies in advance to those whose names we have neglected to mention, we must acknowledge:

Clergy: Bishop Joseph Perry, Deacon Richard Bloomfield, Fr. Paul Czarnota, Fr. Scott Haynes, Fr. Peter Hrytsyk, Fr. Kenneth Myers, Fr. Andrew Wesley, Fr. Charles White

Registration: Anne Sienkiewicz, Eddie Lamsen

Bus Tour: Frank Greenia

Vendor Tables & Telephone Follow-Up: Anita Carey

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

VIP & Shuttle Drivers: Debbie & Deacon Richard Bloomfield, Eddie Lamsen, Eric Restuccia

Publicity & Mailings: Debbie Bloomfield, Phil Blosser, Anita Carey, Frank de Donatis, Tim Ferguson, Sharon Fromm, Jason Grossi, Matthew Hill, Irma Industrious, Betty Klink, Eddie Lamsen, Mike Semaan, Dennis Taubitz, Rosa & Bob Treusch, Robert Wenderski

Food Service: Diane Begin, Anita Carey, Peter Gulewich, Charlotte & Ron Parent, Rosa & Bob Treusch, Bill Wilson

Church Prep: Emelie Bommarito, Patrick Degens, Sean Dey, Bob Duda, Brian Gondek, Celeste & Dave Grabowski, Rosemarie "Busia" Iwan, Sharon Moody, Susan & Barry Rafferty

Lead Altar Servers: Jim Eatmon, David Schmick, Joe Tuskiewicz

Special recognition must be given to **Mike & Jeanne Dunne**, multi-function volunteers extraordinaire, who went beyond the call of duty in so many ways, often at the last minute. Their efficient work on so many fronts was a primary reason that our guests never saw us sweat.

We wish to thank Archbishop Vigneron's office staff for their prompt assistance on a number of matters. We also thank the Michigan Catholic newspaper and WDEO for their generous allocation of time and space for coverage of this event.

Looking Forward

We pray that three things develop from the LLA Convention: First, that those who were not yet familiar with the riches of the Church's liturgical and musical traditions would be introduced to this vast treasury, motivated to learn more about it, and through it grow in their spiritual life.

Second, that those who may be interested in starting Latin Masses in their own parishes and dioceses might pick up some practical lessons from our region's experience, and be motivated to embark on such projects with more confidence.

Third, that those already attending a Latin Mass might discover yet more riches available to them. The process of preparing for Vespers and the Pontifical Mass, for example, was a humbling and eye-opening experience that proved that there is always more to learn about the Church's liturgy.

May God bless everyone who helped, who contributed towards, and who attended this conference. *Ad majorem Dei gloriam.*

The Final Word

At one point, a visiting priest curiously observed that we were carting supplies back and forth between the churches. Joe Tuskiewicz responded, "You think we have five churches involved. Actually, there's only one church, and it's portable."