

Tridentine Community News

August 19, 2007

The Classic Form of Matrimony

Having covered Baptism and Penance, this week we turn our attention to the Extraordinary (Tridentine) Form of Marriage. Beginning September 14, 2007, any priest of the Latin Rite may employ the Extraordinary Forms of the Sacraments without requiring permission from his bishop.

In the Ordinary (Novus Ordo) Form, the marriage vows are exchanged within the Mass. In the Classic Form, the vows are exchanged before Mass begins. As we have discussed in previous columns, the 1962 Mass is careful to delineate what is within, and what is external to, the Mass, in an effort to set apart the most sacred liturgical actions.

Prior to Mass, the ceremony may begin with a sermon or exhortation to the couple. Interestingly, the English form of the *Rituale Romanum* (the Roman Ritual book of sacraments) contains an example of such an exhortation. This example is just that, only an example. It is not even present in the original Latin edition.

After the optional sermon or exhortation, the marital vows are exchanged, in either Latin or English. The priest sprinkles the couple with holy water and blesses the bride's ring. The priest gives the ring to the groom, who places it on the bride's hand. There is no specific ceremony for the groom's ring, although it would be only civil to assume that it could be done at this point, as well.

If both parties are Catholics, a Nuptial Mass follows. It has specific Propers; there is no choice of readings as in the Ordinary Form.

Only two changes are made to the Mass itself versus an ordinary Mass: Between the *Pater Noster* and the *Libera nos* prayers, the priest turns and recites two prayers over the bride and groom. At the end of Mass, after the *Ite, Missa est* and *Pláceat* prayers and before the final blessing, the priest turns to the couple and recites a prayer of blessing over them.

Pre-Vatican II, couples were occasionally married before a Sunday Mass, which makes one wonder, what Propers were used? The Sunday's (which should take precedence), or the Nuptial Mass' (the appropriate ones)? Also on occasion, more than one couple were married at the same Mass. Presumably this was done for cost savings. The historians among us can probably explain how this worked. If you recall the details, please e-mail the address at the bottom of this page, and we will relate the story in a future column.

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

17...And Counting

We couldn't resist a headline reminiscent of the announcer from a James Bond film, counting down the launch of a doomsday weapon. The number 17 refers to the number of priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit whom we have learned are considering starting a Tridentine Mass of one sort or another. That's 11 more than we knew about three weeks ago. We believe this is the second highest interest level of any diocese in North America. Of course, many if not most of these will not pan out, and those that do, may not start for several months.

There is no word yet of any priest or parish's interest in Windsor. Assumption Church may remain the sole Extraordinary Mass site there.

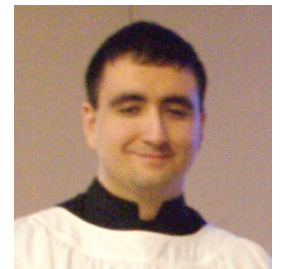
It would be ideal if St. Josaphat, Assumption, and the other potential Mass sites coordinated their plans to provide a Classic Form Mass on multiple days of the week. There is little sense in having two Masses on a Monday, for example, and none on Tuesday. As we speak with the other interested parishes, we will strive to come up with a cooperative plan.

The Extraordinary Community News?

As part of a 12-step program to wean away from using the term "Tridentine," we are considering renaming this column. The lack of a definitive, recognizable, catchy term to replace Tridentine is daunting. For now, we are only as far as admitting that we have a problem.

Bona Fortúna, Matthew Meloche!

Organist Matthew Meloche has been an integral part of both the Windsor and Detroit Tridentine Mass Communities. In 2004, at the wee age of 19, Matthew became the Music Director of the Latin Mass in Windsor, and has regularly substituted for Wassim Sarweh at St. Josaphat, as recently as this past Wednesday, August 15. He took photographs for and created the music listing section of the Windsor Latin Mass web site; has worked in the kitchen at St. Josaphat brunches and at the Chant Workshop; and has served at the altar when additional people were needed.



Matthew has decided to explore life outside of metro Detroit and is moving to Columbus, Ohio to take on a Music Director position there. We're going to miss Matthew's versatility and reliability. We wish him well and hope he returns to visit us regularly.