

**10th Anniversary Ecclesia Dei celebrations &
founding of Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in Rome.**

By David Reid

Fri. Oct. 23: Bishop Timlin of Scranton celebrated a Tridentine Low Mass at the North American College on the Janiculum, very near to St. Peter's. The Mass was well attended with many Priests and Seminarians highly visible.

Sat. Oct. 24: Conference at the Ergife Hotel to accommodate the large crowd approx. 3000. Speakers included Bp. Timlin, Cardinal Stickler, Msgr. Perl, Cardinal Ratzinger, Michael Davies, Prof. Spaemann and Dom Gerard Calvet Abbot of the Benedictine Abbey of Le Barroux. The 9:00 session was headed by Alfons Cardinal Stickler, the retired Prefect of the Vatican Library and Cardinal Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church. He was introduced by Msgr. Caulkins of New Orleans who is on the staff of the Ecclesia Dei Commission in Rome. Cardinal Stickler's presentation involved strategies for the expansion of the Latin Mass permission. He suggests more effort be expended in convincing Bishops that sound doctrine and sound liturgy go hand in hand or as he put it *lex orandi lex credendi*. He stressed the fact that there is no problem with the Tridentine Rite simultaneously co-existing with the Novus Ordo as this has always occurred in the Church. He quoted a number of examples including the Ambrosian and the Rite celebrated by the Dominicans. He blamed the Bishops for not obeying the Pope's command in Ecclesia Dei.

Bishop Timlin believes that the Rites can co-exist and in his Diocese he has done all he can to promote and establish a solid foundation for the growth of the Traditional Rite. He says that in America he knows most of the Bishops personally and he does not believe that they are being deliberately obstructive of the wishes of the Holy Father, but they have to be shown that the Tridentine Mass can be a sign of diversity in the Church, not disruption or disunity.

Cardinal Ratzinger, head of the Office for the Doctrine of the Faith, pointed out that juridical solution while possible was not desirable since education of the Bishops was necessary as well as a change of heart. He noted that further significant advances may be won at the hands of a new generation of Bishops, more dispassionately formed in these matters. He made the assertion that the Novus Ordo Mass we have now is

further from what the Council Fathers wanted than the Tridentine Mass. It is clear that Cardinal Ratzinger would have preferred a slower development including a strict retention of the God-centered, sacrificial nature of the Mass.

Michael Davies and Prof. Spaemann pointed out the great loss of Faith occurring and the problematic way in which the New Mass is often celebrated.

Both Michael and Dom Gerard Calvet had a number of concrete suggestions to put to Cardinal Ratzinger including:

- Enlarging the Ecclesia Dei Commission and empowering it with more authority to act. Permitting Priests a choice of which Mass they would prefer to say;
- Appointing an Apostolic Vicar for Traditionalists. Similar to Opus Dei or the Diocese for the Army. Establishing Traditional Parishes in each Diocese;
- Having two Priests in some Parishes one to celebrate the New Rite and one to celebrate the Old Rite;
- Establish Quasi Parishes like similar to one in Versailles.

An interesting sidelight was the statement by Msgr. Caulkins that the Holy Father had been briefed on these matters in June. No further details were presented.

The Conference ended with Cardinal Ratzinger beginning the Salve Regina, and for once the Unity of the Church was magnificently portrayed as the audience from all corners of the globe sang together to the Queen of the Universe and the Queen of the Angels.

After the conference Mass was celebrated by Bishop Timlin at Santa Maria della Scala and by Dom Gerard of Le Barroux at the Basilica di Crisogono.

Una Voce International had a brief meeting at Una Voce's office in Rome. The centerpiece of the meeting was the Latin Mass Society of England's petition to the Pope requesting him to celebrate the Tridentine Latin Mass. The petition was signed by all the Una Voce chapters throughout the world along with the traditional priestly orders and monasteries. The petition was bound in a magnificent maroon leather volume and was presented to the Pope on Sunday.

The Priestly Fraternity's banquet on Saturday night was well attended and enabled me to reestablish contact with Michael Davies and Fr.Devillers Regional Superior of the Priestly Fraternity of St.Peter in North America. Fr.Devillers was very open to

attending, next year, our 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Latin Mass in Vancouver.

Sunday Oct. 25: A Pontifical High Mass was offered by Cardinal Stickler at San Ignazio. The Church was entirely filled with standing room only. The procession into the Church was most remarkable with over 400 priests, seminarians and religious assembled outside the Church, entirely filling a side-street. There were Priests and Seminarians in cassock and surplice as well as traditional Benedictines, Franciscans, and Dominicans in their distinctive habits. With Mass attendance in Italy at 1% the startled look on the faces of Italian passers-by was obvious as they beheld so many Priests and religious waiting to proceed into Church not to mention the laity gathered outside for lack of room inside.

The French sang the proper for the Feast of Christ the King (*Dignus est Agnus*) and the choir and congregation alternated on the common, *Missa VIII (De Angelis)*. It is beyond my ability to describe the beauty and magnificence of this Mass. Enough tears must have been shed to fill the Tiber. We knelt at the gate of Heaven and were surrounded by Angels. Vespers were later held at St. Peter's with standing room only.

Monday Oct. 26: The Holy Father held a special general audience in recognition of the *Ecclesia Dei* anniversary and four newly canonized Saints. St. Peter's square was jammed with a large crowd of Traditional Catholics together with a few other groups. On the dais with the Pope were about 60 FSSP Priests. Concerning *Ecclesia Dei* the Holy Father's speech was in French and an official translation is still forthcoming. The report however was to the effect that we should continue to work but remain firmly within the Church.

It will be impossible to sum up the overall impact that these celebrations had, on the hierarchy and on the Church, but on the positive side there have been significant progress for the Traditional Mass and for orthodoxy and tradition of the Faith.

The motto of St. Benedict *laborare est orare* must be applied on behalf of the Church, and it is well to remember that the battle has already been won by Christ and we have His solemn promise "I will be with you all days even to the consummation of the world".