

Vancouver Traditional Mass Society Affiliates with Mr. Opelle's Traditional Mass Society in California

In 1989 - 1990 the then existing Una Voce Canada was in dire straits and on the point of extinction consequently our then president Mrs. Mary Carey and our then Vice President Mrs. Moira Garneau together with the board of directors decided to affiliate with Mr. Bob Opelle's Traditional Mass Society in California.

Mr. Opelle visited us in Vancouver where we finalized the affiliation and he also paid a visit to Archbishop James Carney.

As time passed, however, the politics concerning the traditional Mass in Vancouver became quite heated to the point where we had to involve President d'Honneur Professor Count Neri Capponi of Una Voce International, himself a Canon Lawyer, to represent us. We became the proverbial hot potato and Mr. Opelle asked us to voluntarily rescind our affiliation.

Una Voce America adds:

Mr. Opelle was President of the Traditional Mass Society, headquartered in San Juan Capistrano, for many years. The TMS was successor to the original Una Voce in the United States association that was founded and led by Dr. Dietrich von Hildebrand. After von Hildebrand died in 1977, Bob diligently represented the U.S. at meetings of the international Una Voce Federation. The TMS produced a bimonthly newsletter that focused on raising consciousness of Catholics of their liturgical patrimony. Bob led national petition drives to awaken the Curia to the desires, and indeed the rights, of Catholics to have access to the traditional Mass. His final petition effort netted nearly 50,000 names and was placed directly into the hands of Pope John Paul II in 1994 by Bob himself.

Mr. Bob Opelle, a longtime champion for the TLM, passed away Thursday, January 5 2012 after a brief illness. He was in Hawaii, where he had been living with his wife for several years. He had served as a leader battling for the TLM many years ago when the fight was still new.