

Tridentine Mass Never Died Out

By NC News Service

While the Tridentine Mass has generally been unavailable publicly in any licit celebration since 1970, it has never completely died out.

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre and his followers have offered Mass in that rite in defiance of church authority. Using revisions incorporated in the 1962 Missal of Pope John XXIII, priests have also celebrated Mass licitly in two special circumstances.

One special circumstance has been celebrations by priests of advanced age who were given special permission to use the Tridentine Rite, as long as they celebrated it privately, without a congregation.

The second special circumstance has been in some areas under the jurisdiction of the bishops of England and Wales.

The two exceptions were provided for by Pope Paul VI, the pope who approved the new order of Mass to supercede the Tridentine Rite.

Permission to exempt elderly priests from the new rite was given by Pope Paul to all local bishops to be used in cases in which those priests would have grave difficulty using the new rite because of advanced age or serious infirmity.

Permission to use the Tridentine Rite publicly was given by Pope Paul to the bishops of England and Wales in response to a request by Cardinal John Heenan of Westminster in 1971.

Cardinal Heenan asked for the indulgent because of the strong historical attachment of English and Welsh Catholics to the old liturgy. In England and Wales, loyalty to the Catholic Church in the face of Anglican reformers was closely tied to loyalty to the Mass. The Anglican reformers substituted English for Latin and the Book of Common Prayer for the Mass.

Tridentine Masses have not been widely celebrated in England and Wales under the permission, but usually at least one has taken place each week somewhere. Some dioceses specified that such Masses could be celebrated but not advertised. Others did not allow them at all, saying there was no local need.

Tridentine Mass

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it in extraordinary cases), and on the days and under the conditions established by the bishop, either habitually or for individual cases."

Archbishop Mayer said such "extraordinary cases" could include groups of parishioners who want the Tridentine Mass celebrated regularly in their parish churches. "The bishops would take care of this," he said.

Archbishop Mayer said he was disappointed that, because of press reports, the letter had to be made public before bishops around the world may have had time to learn its contents.

He termed as "speculation" reports that the congregation had been divided on the issue of re-admitting the Tridentine Mass. He refused to comment further on reaction to the decision within the Vatican.

"But as this problem has continued, the Holy Father, in the desire to accommodate these groups, too, offers to diocesan bishops the possibility to make use of a dispensation" for those wishing to use the old rite, the letter continued.

Mercy Sisters Issue Datebook

Three Sisters of Mercy have collaborated on the publication of a 1985 weekly appointment book. The publication is a first for the diocesan congregation.

Entitled "Seasoned in Mercy," the datebook went on sale Sept. 24 and features graphics by Sister Mary Estelle Martin, poetry by Sister Audrey Synnott and photography by Sister Kathleen Mary O'Connell.

The book measures 5" by 7" and is available for \$5 from either Sister Estelle or Sister Audrey, Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610; (716) 482-5442.

Those asking for permission must make a written request to their bishop. The bishop, in turn, must make sure that the groups "do not share the positions of those who place in doubt the legitimacy and the doctrinal exactness of the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1970," the letter said.

The letter instructed each bishop to inform the congregation of any dispensations and to make a yearly report on each.

"This concession, indicative of the concern the Common Father has for all his children, should be used in a way that does not damage the faithful observance of the liturgical reform" in church communities, the letter added.

Fisher To Host Seminar

St. John Fisher College will host a day-long seminar on "New Legislation and Current Issues Affecting Tax Shelters," from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25 in the Community Education Center.

According to a college press release, the seminar will focus on "the responsibility of tax preparers to advise clients on tax shelters in light of the 1984 Tax Act, the IRS crackdown and current developments."

Topics will include "IRS Crackdown on Tax Shelters," "Changes in Partnership Rules," "Major Shelters for the 80s," and "Tax Shelter Audits."

Speakers will be tax attorneys Jack M. Battaglia and Thomas M. DiPiazza Jr. of Rochester, and Donald L. Herskovitz of Washington, D.C.

The seminar costs \$55, which includes participant materials, lunch and refreshments.

Abortion Public Issue, Bishops' Leader Says

Washington (NC) -- Abortion, like nuclear war, is "necessarily" a matter of public morality, said Bishop James Malone, president of the U.S. bishops, in a new policy statement recently released.

The proper public policy question about abortion and nuclear war is what should be done, not whether or not a political response is needed, he said.

At the same time, he added, "there is much room for dialogue about what constitute effective, workable responses."

The Youngstown, Ohio, bishop issued his statement as president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the national public policy arm of the U.S. bishops, at the request of the 60-bishop administrative board of the USCC.

Bishop Malone categorically denied that the bishops are seeking to form a "voting bloc" with their statements on various issues of public policy. "We are not a one-issue church," he said.

"We do not take positions for or against particular parties or individual candidates," he said.

In the current election-year debate on religion in politics, Bishop Malone's statement rejected two extreme positions:

-- That religious leaders are out of order when they address public policy issues. "As a nation we are constitutionally committed to the separation of church and state but not to the separation of religious and moral values from public life," he said.

-- That, on the other extreme, religious leaders should dictate to their followers how to vote. "We do not seek the formation of a voting bloc, nor do we preempt the right and duty of individuals to decide conscientiously whom they will support for public office," he said.

"The prevention of nuclear war and the protection of unborn human life," Bishop Malone said, are

fundamental issues of "human dignity and the sanctity of life" which deserve "special emphasis."

"These issues pertaining to the sanctity of human life itself are and cannot help but be matters of public morality," he said.

At the same time he acknowledged a legitimate pluralism of views concerning what can or should be done, saying: "On questions such as these, we realize that citizens and public officials may agree with our moral arguments while disagreeing with us and among themselves on the most effective legal and policy remedies."

While focusing chiefly on the nuclear war and abortion issues in his 850-word statement, Bishop Malone also noted that the U.S. bishops have taken "positions on many public issues" and he stressed meeting the needs of the poor as another pre-eminent political issue.

"These concerns (of the bishops)," he said, "range from protecting human life from the attack of abortion, to safeguarding human life from the devastation of nuclear war; they extend to the enhancement of life through promoting human rights and satisfying human needs like nutrition, education, housing and health care, especially for the poor."

"We emphasize," he continued, "that the needs of the poor must be adequately addressed if we are to be considered a just and compassionate society."

Mardi Gras

Elmira -- Organizers at Notre Dame High School here have already started making plans for a gala Mardi Gras Dinner Dance, Feb. 23 at the Elmira College Campus Center. The event will commemorate the high school's 30th anniversary.

Handbell Fest

A seven-choir Handbell Festival will be held 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28 at Old St. Mary's Church. The event is free. The church is accessible to the handicapped.



Rare Woods

Dr. Ellen Koskoff (left), professor of musicology at the Eastman School of Music, and Ruth Cahn, percussionist with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, explain the tuning and playing of a tube zither from Madagascar. The instrument is featured during two days of programs on "Music from Wood:" a lecture, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27; a family demonstration, 3 p.m. that day; and a concert, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 28, all at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Briggs of RG&E United Way Head

Paul W. Briggs, chairman of Rochester Gas and Electric Corp.'s board of directors, has been elected chief executive director of the United Way of Greater Rochester. Briggs, who has been United Way's vice chairman, succeeds Natracha P. Dykman as the campaign's 33rd CEO and chairman of the board. He has served on United Way's finance, selection, nominating, long-range planning and executive committees. He also was general chairman of the 1980 campaign.

Other officers will be Frederick C. Jefferson Jr., vice chairman; Dr. William L. Sutton, vice chairman; Martin F. Birmingham, vice chairman for finance; Sue S. Stern, secretary, and Ted L. Moore, president and chief operating officer.

Twenty-four new board members also were added: Matthew Augustine, Rose Marie Beston, Howard F. Buchan, Ermine B. Byas, Ronald C. DiLiddo, Gerald L. Glaser, Pilar Vilar-

Glasgow, Ronald J. Good, Alan C. Hasselwander, Frederick D. Hicks, Robert L. Hutchinson, Alan Illig, LaMarr Jackson, Thomas F. Judson, Gilbert G. McCurdy, David C. Mitchell, G. Dennis O'Brien, Donald E. Ray, Arthur M. Richardson, Rosetta M. Riley, Deborah K. Smith, Beth E. Wilkens, David C. Weinfeld and George F. T. Yancey.

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DEATHS

Earl Kurtz Dies, Worked for Diocese

Earl Kurtz, 57, a longtime diocesan employe, died Oct. 10 after a year's illness. He was an employee of diocesan institutions, including the Pastoral Center for the past eight years, since 1953.

His career spanned the leadership of four bishops. He began his service with the parish maintenance staff at Our Mother of Sorrows in September 1953. He was on the staff at St. Bernard's Seminary from 1962 to 1976 when he joined the Pastoral Center on Buffalo Road as maintenance supervisor.

During his eight years at the Pastoral Center, Mr. Kurtz worked diligently and helped to improve working conditions and facilities. His co-workers thought of him as someone always available for assistance.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark expressed the sentiments of many: "The phrase faithful servant captures the spirit and person of Earl Kurtz. During his many years with the diocese he was always loyal and capable in his performance beyond expecta-



EARL KURTZ

tions. We miss him but are grateful that he has been a part of our lives."

Mr. Kurtz was treated at St. Mary's Hospital before transferring to the Mt. Carmel Hospice on Lorimer Street, where he died. Survivors include his widow Ellen; three children, Gregory, Mary Ellen Baker and Ann Margaret; and four grandchildren.

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