



CATHOLIC COURIER

TURMOIL IN THE U.S.S.R.

Church officials fear a regime that deposed Mikhail Gorbachev may restrict religious freedom. Page 4.

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Calls abide for Tridentine's return

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

Once a month, Dominic Aquila and his family drive either to St. Joseph Church in Oswego or St. Vincent de Paul Church in Buffalo for Sunday Mass.

Members of Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph Parish in Rochester, the Aquilas make the monthly drives to participate in Latin-language Masses celebrated in the Tridentine — or traditional — manner.

For Dominic Aquila, a sense of mystery is one of the main attractions offered by the Tridentine Mass.

"The sense of mystery is more profound," Aquila explained. "There is a stronger sense of the transcendent than in the *Novus Ordo* (the modern Mass)."

Use of Latin in the traditional Mass also provides a sense of universality, Aquila said, adding that the Mass promotes liturgical uniformity because only one text is allowed.

Together, these factors motivate the Aquila family's monthly drives — drives Dominic Aquila finds necessary because regular celebration of the traditional Mass is not allowed within the Diocese of Rochester.

Rochester is, in fact, the only diocese in New York state that has not yet approved celebration of the Tridentine Mass on a weekly or monthly basis.

Lobbying for Latin

Aquila is among a small but vocal group that hopes to change that situation.

He serves as coordinator for the Rochester chapter of *Una Voce* (One Voice), an international organization promoting the traditional Latin Mass. The group has a mailing list of more than 400 people in the Rochester diocese who look forward to the return of the Tridentine Mass, Aquila said.

Efforts of local, national and international traditionalist groups received a boost in April, when the pontifical commission *Ecclesia Dei*

issued revised guidelines for celebrating the traditional Latin Mass.

The Vatican said the new guidelines were intended to clarify and liberalize Pope John Paul II's 1984 directive to permit — under certain circumstances, and with the approval of the local bishop — celebration of the traditional Mass as set forth in the 1962 missal.

Under the April guidelines, individuals advocating the celebration of the traditional Latin Mass need only affirm that they accept the new order of Mass, which replaced the Tridentine Mass in 1970.

Thus far, however, Bishop Matthew H. Clark has declined to reinstate the Tridentine Mass in the Rochester diocese.

Father Thomas Mull, priest consultant for the diocesan liturgy office and designated diocesan spokesman on the issue, noted that the diocese did not receive the new guidelines from the Vatican until June, and said diocesan officials have not yet had time to assess them.

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