

Fall Marriage

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Bishop gives permission for Tridentine weddings

ROCHESTER — If all goes according to schedule, Peter LaPietra and Dawn Infantino will make their wedding vows in English on Oct. 5, 1996.

But little else about the nuptial Mass will be in English.

The couple have opted to have their wedding Mass celebrated in Latin, according to the Tridentine rite, at St. Stanislaus Church, 1124 Hudson Ave.

LaPietra and Infantino are among a group of Catholics which has celebrated Masses at the city church according to the Tridentine rite. Published in 1570 by Pope St. Pius V, this reformed rite of the Mass was used throughout the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, with some revisions from time to time, until it was replaced in 1969 with publication of the new Roman Missal.

The last revised version of the Tridentine Mass was issued in 1962, and that is the version referred to when permission is given in the Catholic Church to celebrate the Tridentine Mass.

Pope John Paul II granted an indult — or special permission — for dioceses to allow some Masses to be celebrated according to the Tridentine Rite. Bishop

Matthew H. Clark granted such permission two years ago for Tridentine Masses to be celebrated at St. Stanislaus Church on Sundays and holy days.

Bishop Clark has also granted special permission for at least one Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated in the rite in the last two years. Then, in July of this year, he granted general permission for weddings and funeral services to be celebrated according to the Tridentine rite.

Accordingly, the wedding Mass will be celebrated in Latin at these services. The readings, homily, vows and instructions to the couple from the priest will be in English; the blessing of the rings will be done in Latin.

According to Father Thomas P. Mull, pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral and diocesan coordinator of Latin Masses, Bishop Clark granted permission for Latin-rite wedding Masses when he received occasional requests for such services during the two years the Latin-rite Mass has been celebrated in this diocese.

"There have been couples who have been going to (those Masses) who have been wondering if they could be married according to the same rite," Fa-

ther Mull said.

LaPietra and Infantino are one of those couples.

"I think I wrote about four letters to the bishop before he granted permission," recalled LaPietra, who, along with his fiancée, is a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

"I've been brought up in the traditional rite since I was 5," he added.

Indeed, in 1973, LaPietra's family received permission to have him baptized according to the traditional rite.

"I may have been the last person on record to receive the old rite baptism in the diocese," he said.

But he may not be the last.

Father Mull acknowledged that, if the need arises, the diocese may in the future allow baptisms according to the Tridentine rite.

"Whenever you get a particular community growing, that eventually will flow into other sacraments and celebrations," Father Mull said.

LaPietra, for one, is optimistic that this will happen.

"Everywhere the indult Masses have been allowed, they have grown," he said.

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