

Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite

29th of June 2008

The Feast of Ss Peter & Paul

Patronal Feast & 9th year of the Latin Mass Community

During the late 90's a group of lay folk banded together to form the St. Joseph Association. The Association began a rational dialogue with The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany to achieve the "wide & generous" application of the Tridentine Liturgy as expressed in the Motu Proprio *Ecclesia Dei* of Pope John Paul II. This goal was realized in 1999 when Father James McNerney agreed to offer a regular Sunday Mass according to the 1962 Missal. The first celebration of the Tridentine Liturgy in the Albany Diocese in nearly 30 years was celebrated June of 1999 at St. Paul's in Troy. The first year was a learning experience. A simple Low Mass was the normative celebration. Following the mass, a weekly fellowship lunch was held that continues today. After a year, Bishop Hubbard designated St. Paul's as a personal parish, under the jurisdiction of the pastor of St Paul's, for those who preferred the Tridentine liturgy & sacraments.

By 2001, Father McNerney reached out to the New York Catholic Chorale to provide a sung Mass setting. The regular celebration of High Mass was to inspire our community to form a choir comprised of members of our congregation. Holy Thursday was offered in Tridentine Form that year as well.

With the arrival of 2002 more developments occurred. The location of the Mass was transferred to St. Peter's Church in Troy. Father Sipperly had retired from active ministry and began volunteering his services to our community. For a brief time, Charles Olegar worked with a few members of our community and High Mass was offered every other week.

2003 saw the first *Solemn* High Mass in the Albany Diocese in 30 years, a daily mass program was implemented, and Holy Thursday & Good Friday were offered in the Tridentine Rite that year as well. 2004 met a change in parish leadership. Father Bill Gorman assumed the leadership of St Paul's & St Peter's Churches. The New York Catholic Chorale continued to provide High Mass settings 10 Sundays of the year. Winifred Blanchard could no longer provide organ accompaniment for the remaining Sunday's of the year, so Father Gorman reached out to Brother Anthony Casso to provide music for the Sunday liturgy.

In 2006 our community was introduced to Pastoral Planning and Bishop Hubbard's "Called to be Church" initiative. As joint parish councils were being formed our community sought answers to questions of canonical status and the security of our future. The St. Joseph Association met with the diocese and was assured of the chancery's continued commitment to the future of the Tridentine Liturgy in the Diocese.

2007 proved eventful for the community as well. Father Romaeus Cooney came on board and began to regularly celebrate the Sunday Mass. Joseph Grillo was appointed Director of Music Ministry and inspired members of our community to come together and form a choir capable of meeting all the musical needs connected with this form of the liturgy. In July of this same year Pope Benedict XVI promulgated, *Summorum Pontificum*, which called the Tridentine Rite an Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite and granted the laity and clergy free access to it.

2008 is not over yet and proves to be no less eventful. The principal Sunday Mass is now a Missa Cantata sung by members of our community. The entire Paschal Triduum was celebrated in solemn form for the first time this year. The pastoral planning process could require our community at St Peter's to relocate. The dynamic history of our community leaves no doubt that we will survive to write the 10th year anniversary chapter in 2009.