

Catholics, do you know...?

Do you know that the Traditional Latin Mass was never outlawed or forbidden by the Church?

From the beginning of his pontificate Pope John Paul II has desired to restore the Traditional Latin Mass to wider use. After a worldwide study in 1980, Pope John Paul II asked all bishops first in 1984, again in 1988, and again in 1998 to provide a “wide and generous application” of his directives to restore the Traditional Mass. He called the desire for the Traditional Mass (sometimes called the “Tridentine” Mass after the Council of Trent) and sacraments a “rightful aspiration” of the faithful. He told bishops he wanted to “guarantee respect” for them. (*Ecclesia Dei*, July 2, 1988)

Because of widespread misconceptions among the clergy and the laity, in 1986 Pope John Paul II called a Commission of cardinals to discuss the Traditional Mass. This Commission said that Pope Paul VI had never forbidden the Traditional Mass. He had only asked that the *Novus Ordo* (New Mass) be the normative Mass for the Church. Just because something is declared to be a “norm” does not mean that established customs and practices are automatically outlawed. Therefore, Pope John Paul II was confirmed in his intent to restore the Traditional Mass to the Church.

The pope also cherishes the prayers of the Traditional Mass, remarking on September 27, 2001, in an address to members of the Congregation of Divine Worship, that they express the depth of the Christian traditions of piety. He called them “magnificent prayers”. Clearly he wants this Mass to be available to the entire Church without taking away the current Mass.

Do you know what the Traditional Latin Mass is?

The Traditional Latin Mass is the Holy Sacrifice all Catholics attended no matter where they lived in the world up until 1964.

Do you know why Pope John Paul II asked for the restoration of this Mass?

As chief Shepherd of the Church, the pope has great pastoral concern and compassion for all the faithful. Our Holy Father knows that all over the world many Catholics long for a restoration of this liturgical form but many bishops are ignoring them completely. Because much of the Traditional Mass had been in existence since Apostolic times, was developed organically under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and approved by saintly Popes starting with Pope St. Gregory the Great (590-604), Pope John Paul II sees that the Traditional Mass is a spiritual treasure to be fostered for those who desire it. He has said this Mass in private himself when on vacation, according to Father Pierre Blet, S.J., who was in attendance. Regarding the Traditional Mass, Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, himself told Raymond Arroyo of EWTN in 2002 that what has been holy for the Church in the past remains holy and cannot be forbidden.

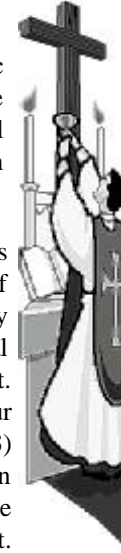
Another aspect influencing the Holy Father is the fact that many people who loved this Mass and were deprived of it were either quitting parishes for illicit celebrations of the Traditional Mass, setting up private chapels outside the jurisdiction of bishops, or they were staying home altogether. He saw that many young families with children were drawn to this Mass and were confused about why they couldn't have it in their dioceses. From the time he was elected Pope, our Holy Father has desired unity amongst all Christians. He realizes that unity must first and foremost be fostered within the Church itself. Since the Traditional Mass is a source of great grace and unity, and denial of it creates disunity, he wants all who desire it to have it.

Do you know what else the Holy Father has done to foster the Traditional Mass and Sacraments?

The Holy Father established the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (F.S.S.P.) and encouraged the formation of other societies of apostolic life dedicated solely to serving Catholics who desire our ancient liturgy. Among these are the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest (I.C.R.), the Society of St. John Cantius, the Canons of the New Jerusalem and others. In addition, a number of Benedictine monasteries in Europe and America have restored the Traditional Mass as their daily and Sunday Mass with the blessing of the Holy Father. The Pope also appointed Bishop Fernando Rivan of the Society of St. John Vianney in Campos, Brazil to be the first bishop who says only the Traditional Mass and who serves over 20,000 Catholics in Brazil and elsewhere in South America. The Church now has over 15 priestly societies and monastic congregations who say only the Traditional Mass. They are spread all over the world, but many of them are in the United States.

The Pope is also the Bishop of Rome. As such, he has established a number of churches in Rome as sites for the daily and Sunday celebration of the Traditional Mass and permits it to be said in St. Peter's basilica. On the feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians (May 24, 2003) the Holy Father asked Cardinal Castrillón to celebrate the Traditional Mass in one of the four major basilicas in Rome: St. Mary Major. This is his way of setting a good example for other bishops.

In 1988, Pope John Paul II established the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei* to help Catholics all over the world to obtain the Traditional Mass in their dioceses and also to help priests who want to say this Mass.



Do you know why people are attracted to the Traditional Mass?

The Traditional Mass, from beginning to end, exudes sacred mystery, holiness, and awe in the presence of God. Much silence in worship, the orientation of the priest towards the east (*ad orientem*) from whence the Risen Christ will come again, and the use of Gregorian chant adds to the contemplative atmosphere which allows people to shed their worldly cares and step over the threshold of time into heaven, if only for an hour or so. Moreover, this Mass unequivocally and unambiguously expresses the fullness of Catholic truth in its prayers and gestures. The average person may not be able to put his finger on it, but he knows that when he attends this Mass he has participated in something completely holy and completely *other* from this world and leaves refreshed.

The Traditional Mass is transcultural. People from all over the world are perfectly at home when worshiping together at this Mass even if they don't speak the same language. Gregorian chant, dating from before the 500s and a prayer in itself, with its otherworldly melodies and phrasing, is a further unifying influence. People from all countries are able to join in. The time spent during this Mass in adoration of the Holy Eucharist and thanksgiving after communion is another significant attraction as are the many prayers and readings from Sacred Scripture. From the beginning of this Mass to the end, one can be in deep contemplation of the Almighty with little interruption.



Do you know why the Traditional Mass is prayed in Latin?

Latin, called a “dead” language because it never changes and is not in common use, is the official language of the Church, both in liturgy and in law. Just as the Jews have prayed in their sacred language of Hebrew since the time of the Old Testament up to our time, and the Muslims pray in Arabic no matter where they live, the Latin Church prays in its sacred language of Latin in this Mass. The liturgy is the prayer of the entire Church, not just individuals or parishes. Praying in a sacred language prevents worldly political agendas and distractions from creeping in. Word meanings never change in a sacred language. The use of Latin keeps the focus on God, on Eternal Truth.

Do you know you don’t have to know Latin to pray the Traditional Mass?

Most people who attend the Traditional Mass regularly don’t know Latin, although most soon come to know the meaning of the Latin responses they make to the priest and the chants. Every Latin Mass community or parish has books available with Latin on one side of the page and the vernacular on the other side to allow people to know what they are praying. The Epistle and Gospel are read to the people in the vernacular. Most people who regularly attend the Traditional Latin Mass own their own daily missal with the translations. The more one attends this Mass the more comfortable one becomes hearing Latin. The use of Latin is never an obstacle to understanding and participating in the Holy Sacrifice because we are dealing with ritual and the sacred which is a universal language. A person attending the Traditional Mass knows something very holy is going on from beginning to end regardless of the use of Latin. Participation in the sacred mysteries is through kneeling, sitting, standing, answering the priest and joining in the chant and hymns as well as praying in silence. A person doesn’t need to know Latin to do this.

Do you know there is a local organization working to restore the Traditional Latin Mass in this diocese?

Una Voce – Springfield Area is an organization of faithful Catholics founded under canon law and dedicated to restoring the practice of saintly virtues and the Traditional Catholic liturgy according to the 1962 liturgical books in accord with the wishes of Pope John Paul II. We seek to interact with other like-minded Catholics in our diocese and around the country for this purpose. We likewise strive to develop and maintain good relationships with diocesan clergy and the bishop, practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and try to bring Catholics who have left the Church because of a lack of the Traditional Mass back to the practice of their faith. This latter is a special concern of ours.

Una Voce – Springfield Area is part of an international movement and has been working since 1999 to obtain the Traditional Mass in our diocese. Since the current bishop has made it clear that he will not make this Mass available, we must wait for the next bishop and try again. Meanwhile, we educate ourselves and others on the meaning of the Mass and perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Una Voce means “with one voice” and is taken from the end of the preface of the Holy Trinity as it introduces the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy) of the Traditional Mass.

Do you know where you can attend Traditional Masses?

We do not have the Traditional Latin Mass available in the Springfield-Cape Girardeau diocese under the current bishop. *Una Voce* does, however, sponsor pilgrimages to the F.S.S.P. parish in Tulsa. The Tulsa diocese, thanks to the charity of Bishop Slattery, has the personal parish of St. Peter where the Traditional Mass is said daily and Sunday. It is staffed by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

The bishop has also welcomed the Benedictines from France who have founded a daughterhouse in the Hulbert, Oklahoma area. Mass is available there every day and Sunday with the Benedictine usage of the Traditional Mass. You can attend the Divine Office with the monks before Mass if you go there.

Archbishop Burke in St. Louis has brought the Institute of Christ the King, Sovereign Priest in to celebrate the Traditional Mass daily and Sunday. Currently it is available at St. Agatha’s near the Busch brewery. Archbishop Burke has also brought the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem into his diocese to say the Traditional Mass. They are located in the Chesterfield area.

Bishop Sartain of Little Rock has provided four locations for the Traditional Mass in his diocese as of now. They are Cherokee Village in northwest Arkansas, two locations in the Little Rock area, and one location in Mountain Home. These locations are served by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter and Traditional Masses are said daily and Sunday except in Mountain Home which is Sunday only.

Both the diocese of Kansas City Missouri and the diocese of Kansas City Kansas have the Traditional Mass daily and Sunday under the authority of their bishops. Kansas City, Kansas is served by the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. There is also a daily and Sunday Latin Mass in Maple Hill, Kansas and in Topeka.

All these locations are at least 3 hours away from Springfield residents.

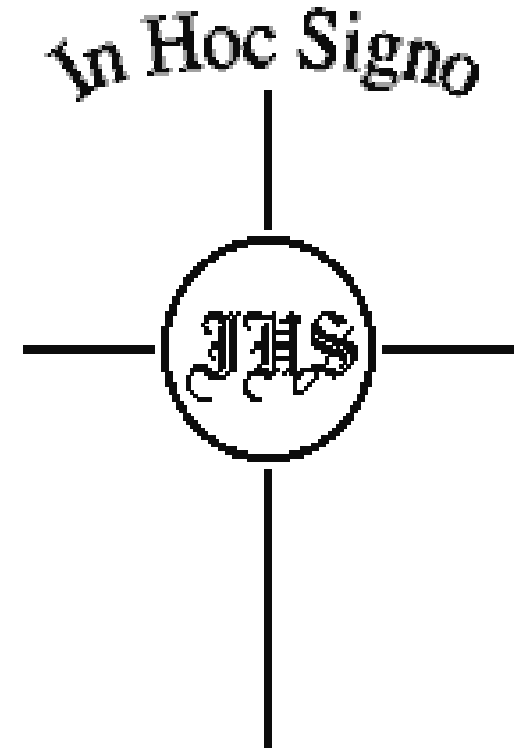
Una Voce – Springfield Area meets the third Wednesday every month during the school year when we study the prayers of the Traditional Mass or have a priest in to address a spiritual topic. **We believe it is a special vocation to love the Traditional Sacred Liturgy as we do and work toward its restoration in union with the Pope.**

Is God calling you to this special vocation?

For more information check out our web site:

<http://unavocespringfield.org>

Or Call Barb Schoeneberger: 581-3648 or
George Mueller: 823-8965



Chapter Hymn: *Veni Creator*
Patroness: Our Lady of Guadalupe