

Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Traditional Mass Society

The tenth Annual General Meeting of the VTMS was held on Saturday, 26 September 1998. After recitation of the Rosary and Holy Mass celebrated by Father John Horgan in the Church, the meeting began at 1 pm. After the minutes of last year's meeting were read and adopted, the president, Mrs. Moira Garneau gave a brief history of the Society in Holy Spirit Parish, mentioning that once again our requests to the Archbishop for a Traditional parish have not been granted. Some young families have become discouraged and have left the parish. Some have left the Church completely. To improve the current situation, she suggested we "lay seige to heaven" with our prayers. She recalled Father Tepoorten's seven years at the Parish and mentioned the fact that one of the two seminarians the Society has been sponsoring, Father Philip Creurer, was ordained as a priest in Ottawa in June of this year. Along with Mr. David Reid, Mr Christopher Blust, our other seminarian will be attending the tenth anniversary celebrations of Ecclesia Dei and the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

Mrs. Garneau also mentioned the visiting priests who have offered the Sacrifice of the Mass in the Traditional Rite in the parish, including Father Horgan. She thanked Neil Mulholland for preparing the altar for Mass and for training the altar servers, John Lambert for editing the newsletter, Mr. Reid for providing articles for the newsletter, and the schola and the choir for their work.

Mrs. Ellie Raeder read the membership report, stating that of 100 members receiving the newsletter, only about 50 were actual members of the VTMS. Mrs. Lynn Reid read the financial report. Election Neil Mulholland for preparing the altar for Mass and for training the altar servers. She thanked John Lambert for editing the newsletter, Mr. Reid for providing articles for the newsletter, and the schola and the choir for their work.

Mrs. Ellie Raeder read the membership report, stating that of 100 members receiving the newsletter, only about 50 were actual members of the VTMS. Mrs. Lynn Reid read the financial report. Election of officers for the coming year was next, and the present executive was returned to office. It was mentioned that we still have no secretary.

New Business.

Mrs. Margaret Mackie introduced the topic of what the members might do to help introduce a more fruitful component to the Mass. Mrs. Garneau responded and general discussion followed resulting in some positive suggestions. It was pointed out that some dissatisfaction seems to have spread to members of the English Mass too.

Peter Mulholland said he would approach some semi-professional music students he knows who would be pleased to supplement our schola and choir two or three times a year for a stipend of \$80 each. The first such sung Mass is scheduled for All Saints' Day.

It was also suggested that the Society run advertisements for our Traditional Mass in local newspapers such as *The North Shore News*, *The Courier*, etc. including quotes from prominent churchmen such as Cardinals Ratzinger and Felici about the "validity" of the Traditional Mass. Another idea to increase awareness about the VTMS was to send congratulatory gifts to newly-ordained priests of the Archdiocese. The suggestion was also made that our polyphonic choir offer to sing in Latin at Benediction services around the Archdiocese. On 16th October a special Mass would be celebrated to commemorate Pope John Paul's election. The VTMS might send a "spiritual bouquet" to the Holy Father indicating that we are contributing members of the Church.

Father Horgan's Talk

Father Horgan began with a brief account of the Canadian Martyrs (or the North American Martyrs) and points of similarity between them and the English martyrs of the Reformation. He also mentioned the little-known Mexican martyrs in the 1920s and how they suffered for the Faith. Father pointed out that a basic failure to defend the Faith eventually led to laymen's sacrifice in maintaining the Faith. The English and Mexican martyrs, he continued, were killed by their fellow Catholics.

The problem before us now is how to deal with marginalization. Our faith is lived out in everyday things: shopping, driving to work, looking after the children, etc. and as such, has no end. There is no limit to faith and love of this sort. Father also suggested we read Eamon Duffy's *The Stripping of the Altars*, published by Harvard U. Press.