

Letter from Michael Davies



On the "international front", the most encouraging aspect at the moment is the support that we are receiving from Cardinal Medina Estevez whom I met in November last year. He is Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments which until now has always been very hostile to the Traditional Mass. He will be saying the Traditional Mass for the Chartres Pilgrims, at which I will be present, and he will also be saying a Mass in Rome in October for the Ecclesia Dei tenth anniversary celebrations. I hope that the VTMS will be represented. Cardinal Felici will celebrate a Pontifical Tridentine Mass in his titular church of San Carlo al Catinari at 4:00 pm on Saturday, 24th October. Cardinal Ratzinger will be present and will give a public lecture at some time during the weekend. On Sunday, 25th October, Cardinal Medina Estevez will celebrate a Pontifical Tridentine Mass. It is hoped that some kind of meeting with the Pope can be arranged. Those coming should not plan to return home before Tuesday 27th October.

An important statement.

Cardinal Medina Estevez, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, made a very positive statement in an interview with the Chilean journal *El Mercurio* on 25th January 1998. He was asked what his reaction was to the claim that the liturgy has not been modernized sufficiently. His Eminence rejected this assertion forcefully, and cited the example of the Orthodox Churches which have not changed their liturgies in any way, and yet their liturgy remains a spiritual force absolutely central to the life of these churches.

The next question put to him was, "Others think that the decrease of faith is due precisely to the contrary, that the changes promoted (promovidos) by the Second Vatican Council alienated the faithful from going to church and from doctrine." The Cardinal's response reads, "There are persons who have a very great sensibility (sensibilidad) towards the liturgy as it was celebrated before the Second Vatican Council. Church authority understands this sensibility and welcomes (acoge) the desires of those persons and groups and authorizes them to celebrate the divine cult (concediendoles celebrar el culto de Dios) in accordance with the rite which existed before the aforementioned council, with the permission of the bishop of the diocese. In the Church there have always co-

existed and still coexist different liturgical families, all of them being wholly Catholic.

In Domino Michael