

Quasi Parish Petition

2nd LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP ADAM EXNER

1st Nov., 1999

Most Reverend Adam Exner, OMI

Your Grace:

We thank you for acknowledging receipt of our latest request for a full share of and participation in the Church's spiritual banquet and we note that you will be taking this request to Council.

In the meantime Your Grace may we humbly and prayerfully ask you to take into consideration the fact that during the Second Vatican Council, the first document promulgated by the Council Fathers was the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 4th December 1963). This document was approved by 2147 votes with only 4 against, thus indicating the overwhelming wishes of the Council Fathers. In establishing the principles and norms to be applied to the Roman Rite (Art. 3) the Council Fathers ordered the following:

- "... in faithful obedience to tradition, the sacred Council declares that Holy Mother Church holds all lawfully recognised rites to be of equal right and dignity; that she wishes to preserve them in the future and to foster them in every way." (Art. 4);
- "The use of the Latin Language, with due respect to particular law, is to be preserved in the Latin rites." (Art. 36(1));
- "... care must be taken to ensure that the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them." (Art. 54);
- "The treasury of sacred music is to be preserved and cultivated with great care." (Art. 114);
- "The Church recognises Gregorian chant as being specially suited to the Roman liturgy. Therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services." (Art. 116).

The entire Vancouver Traditional Latin Mass Community fully support these objectives and are being absolutely faithful to the collective will of the Council Fathers as promulgated in Sacrosanctum Concilium.

We are also deeply grateful to His Holiness John Paul II for his pastoral concern for "... all those Catholic faithful who feel attached to some previous liturgical and disciplinary forms of the Latin tradition" and for introducing "the necessary measures to guarantee respect for their rightful aspirations" (Ecclesia Dei, Art. 5c), and His Holiness has publicly recognised these mandates from the Council Fathers by authorising the establishment of those priestly orders, monasteries, and religious houses that use the 1962 religious books.

This matter is so crucial to the spiritual welfare of ourselves and our families, Your Grace, that we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with yourself and Msgr. Monroe prior to the Council meeting. The purpose of the meeting would be to expand more fully on the urgency of the situation and to determine what else might be done to persuade you that our request has the potential to benefit the Vancouver Diocese.

Yours in Christ

Moira Garneau President