Foederatio Internationalis Una Voce XVII General Assembly — Rome 8th & 9th Oct. 2005

Editor’s Comment:
I believe that Una Voce International emerged from the XVII General Assembly stronger than ever and at a most critical time in the history of the Church. A new light has dawned and if it be God’s most Holy Will the darkness will be expelled.

St. Peter’s at Pope’s Wednesday Audience

XVII General Assembly was preceded on the morning of Oct. 8th by a Tridentine Mass celebrated at 7 a.m. by Msgr. Ignacio Barreiro at the Hungarian Chapel in the Crypt of St. Peter’s.

Under the great Church lies another Church, called the Sacred Grottoes of the Vatican. These are the underground areas between the ancient Church, and that of the more recent one, built approximately 3 meters above it.
Mass here, surrounded by the tombs of the Popes, reminiscent of Mass in the catacombs brings home clearly not only the situation of Traditional Catholics but of the Church as it is being inexorably driven out of the public lives of men and once again into the catacombs.

On Saturday

Dr. Turrini Vita & Msgr. Perl of Ecclesia Dei

Fra’ Fredrik Crichton-Stuart, Dr. Turrini Vita & Msgr. Wach
Fra’ Fredrik Crichton-Stuart & Dr. Turrini Vita

After lunch on Saturday we got down to the business of the closed session. The agenda proceeded as follows:

- Meeting opens with the singing of the Veni Creator Spiritus;
- The minute keeper and tellers are next appointed. The tellers tabulate the secret vote which will shortly choose the next Council;

At this point there was a presentation of 3 organizations for membership to the Federation:

➢ Italy — Coordinamento di Una Voce della Venezie;
➢ Russia — Una Voce Russia and
➢ Switzerland — Verein Mariae Namen.
➢ All three organizations were accepted and are now part of FIUV;

- The deceased members of the various member associations are mentioned. Sunday Mass is offered for the repose of their souls and the De Profundus recited;

- The President’s Report is then presented and in it Herr Ralf Siebenbürger discussed the activities of the Federation since the previous General Assembly in 2003 including its’ financial status.

- We have now reached the demarcation line. From this point on a newly elected President and Council will lead FIUV forward for the next two years. Newly elected Council:
• The newly elected President indicated that there will be some minor changes to the Federation statutes in the near future. He then proceeded to appoint Dr. Riccardo Turrini Vita as Chairman for the Sunday’s open Forum;

• The meeting came to an end with the singing of the Salve Regina.

Sunday Open Forum Session

Sunday Mass at Chiesa Gesu e Maria
Sunday’s High Mass was celebrated at Chiesa Gesu e Maria by Msgr. Wach Superior General of the Institute of Christ the King.

At the open forum in the afternoon Msgr. Wach gave an update on the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest. He reported that the institute was doing very well as the Church does badly. They are growing in the USA and the nuns continue to increase in number. Abp. Of Florence welcomes them. Unexpected increase in Chicago with lots of Students. Abp. Burke gave them a Cathedral but it has to be refurbished. Schools in Africa expanding but Islam is spreading rapidly. It is a blessing on the election of Pope Benedict and called for unity. He is hoping under the new Pope there will be more sympathetic ears but we must be firm and remain firm.

Fr. Bisig represented Fr. Devillers Superior General of the FSSP. He also reported that the institute was doing very well. They need more Priests in USA as they are invited into more parishes than they can supply Priests for. In France a Seminary is open. Seminary has a capacity of 100 Seminarians still have to build the Chapel. 17 Priests ordained in 2003 and 15 in 2004. Organization is spreading with more invitations than they have Priests to fill.

The report from Ecclesia Dei was presented by Msgr. Perl. who represented Cardinal Hoyos who could not attend because of the Bishops meetings. Cardinal Hoyos sent his greetings.

Msgr. Perl reported:
- “We have had a new Pope already 5 or 6 months,” Perl said. “And I must say, there has been a change in the atmosphere. There is a new spotlight focusing on us.” His point was clear: in the months since Benedict’s election, the Ecclesia Dei Commission has come into far more prominence than during many previous years.
- “the wind in Rome has changed (since April and Benedict’s election).”
- One of the changes: “We have a Pope in Benedict XVI a man who has written many books on the liturgy, and that it is incumbent upon us to study them,” Perl said. “The liturgy is too important to be left to the liturgists.”
- There have been a few interesting recent developments, according to Msgr Perl. “Cardinal Medina-Estevez (former liturgy dicastery head) recently dedicated a church to the sisters associated with the Fraternity of St Peter,”
- Msgr. Perl then added that the Vatican’s theologians, canonists and liturgists are currently studying the whole question of the liturgy and what needs to be done to “reform the reform,” summing up: “They are preparing some important things in this field.” The implication was clearly that some sort of Church document is under consideration.

When might these studies issue in some sort of official document, and what might that document say?

“I don’t now,” Perl said.

Then Msgr. Perl went a step further making clear that he was sharing his “best judgment” despite his lack of certainty, he referred to the diocese of Campos, Brazil, as a “possible model” to be followed in the future.
But how could the Campos diocese be used a “model” by Rome? Perl did not give a complete answer, but he did confirm the basic point: “Some (in the Vatican) are asking if this (Campos) solution can be applied to the whole Church.”

Thus, three important facts emerged from Perl’s October 9 remarks:
1. That the mood in Rome regarding the old liturgy has changed since the election of Benedict XVI, with more respect being shown to those attached to the old liturgy (and Vatican monsignors who once ignored Msgr Perl now tipping their hats to him in St. Peter’s Square).
2. That to deal with the problems that have become so commonplace in the conciliar liturgy, there is occurring a very quiet but very intense debate in Rome about what precisely to do, in order to advise the Pope on this very different problem.
3. That an effort will be made to bring the disaffected traditionalists — the largest group being the Society of St Pius X — back into union with Rome, perhaps on the model of the Campos solution.

Report from Una Voce Russia:
• Situation at end of Soviet Union no more than 70 Priests for 2.5 million Catholics. Most were Polish or Russians. During the era of the Soviet Union there was no contact between the Catholic Church and Rome. Reform came at end of Soviet Union. When the 70 Priests were replaced with younger Priests at the end of the Soviet Union the younger Priests brought the Novus Ordo. There are now 500 Priests in 4 dioceses, 2 seminaries and most Priests are celebrating the Novus Ordo.
• NO still has traditional aspects communion in the mouth kneeling.
• Abp. And Bps. are conservative. Need support from local hierarchy. If institutes would contact Beleurese they may be able to be invited in.