

Una Voce Calgary



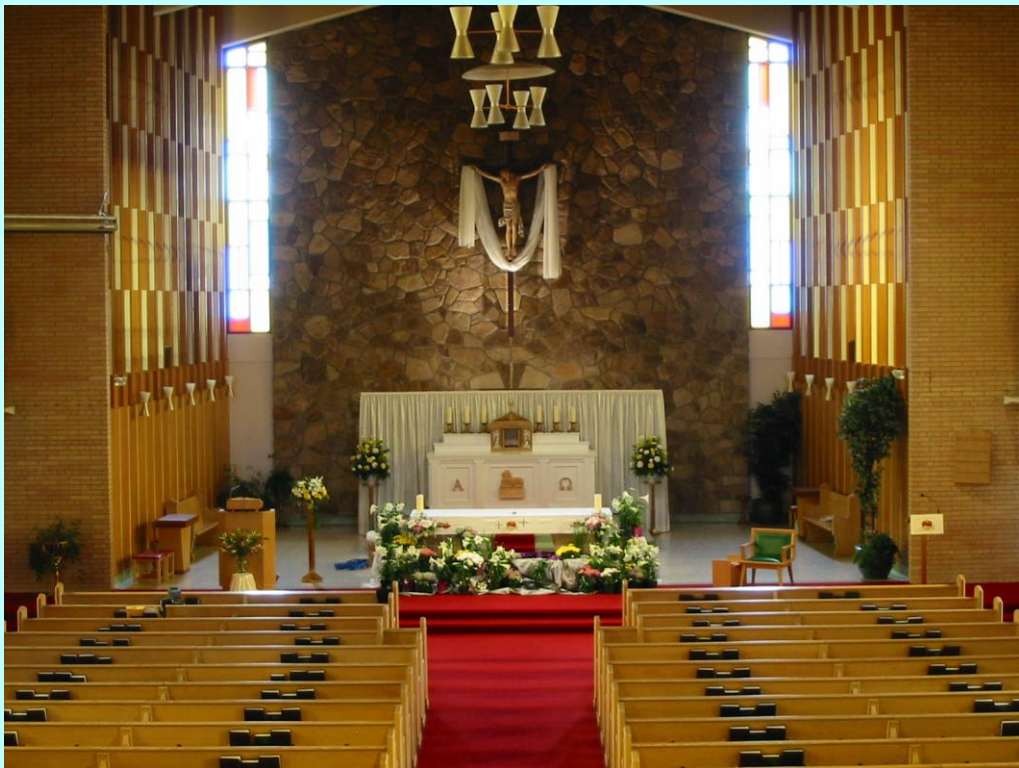
St. Anthony



New Altar



Installation of New Altar





Reading of the Gospel

Editor's Comment:

The formation of the Una Voce Calgary Chapter which is an affiliate of the Vancouver Traditional Mass Society (VTMS) which is the representative of Una Voce International in Canada is another step forward in strengthening and organising Traditional Catholics in Canada with the ultimate goal of having Chapters as the Canadian Coat of Arms proclaims 'A MARIE USQUE AD MARE'. These chapters are all organized under the umbrella of Una Voce Canada.

Latin Mass Society

By Richard Parks

In 1990 a group of Calgary Catholics formed an association, which they called the Latin Mass Society. They wished to ask permission of then Bishop Paul O'Byrne for the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, authorized in the Apostolic Letter of John Paul II, in which he stated in part, '...moreover, respect must everywhere be

shown for the feelings of all those who are attached to the Latin liturgical tradition, by a wide and generous application of the directives already issued some time ago by the Apostolic See, for the use of the Roman Missal according to the typical edition of 1962.’

Letters and a petition were sent to the bishop, who gave permission for a traditional Latin Mass, once a month at St. Anne’s Church in Calgary. Fr. Bernard Black celebrated the first Mass on Sunday, November 3, 1992, at 8:00a.m.

In a short time, the Latin Society formed a Gregorian Choir with Stephan Bonfield as director and Gregorian Chant returned to Calgary.

On March 3, 1992, the Society was welcomed to the more centrally located St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church by Fr. Stephan Molnar. At that time, Fr. Louis Madey, a great proponent of the Latin liturgy and Gregorian music, offered Mass at 1:00 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month.

In 1995, Fr. John Maes warmly welcomed the Society to St. Anthony’s Parish. Fr. Madey left the diocese to return to the United States and Fr. Bernie Black returned to celebrating the Latin Mass at 11:45 am.

In 1996, Chris Goldring as Choir Director, spearheaded the formation of a new choir and many young people showed interest in joining. The choir has since grown to more members and, together with organist John Morgan, the dedication and sacrifice of this choir provides richness and reverence to the Holy Mass.

In 1996, Fr. Black was scheduled to be away for three months. Unable to find a replacement, the Society asked permission to fly in a priest from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP), which was working in apostolates in the United States and Canada, to celebrate Mass twice-monthly. These FSSP priests included Fr. Charles van Vliet, Fr. Pedro Alvarez, Fr. George Gabet, Fr. James Jackson, Fr. Eduoard deMentque. Visitors, as well, included Fr. Philip Creurer and Fr. Charles Ryan of St. Clement’s Traditional Latin Mass Community in Ottawa, Ontario.

After Bishop Henry’s installation in the spring of 1998, the Society met with him and asked for a permanent Fraternity priest, who would serve the Latin Mass community, as well as work in hospital chaplaincy in Calgary. The bishop, along with Fr. Jerome Dowling, OMI, of St. Anthony’s, invited Fr. Peter Gee of the FSSP to the Calgary diocese.

Fr. Gee returned to England in May 2000, with newly ordained Fr. Robert Novokowsky, FSSP, as his replacement. When Fr. Eulogio Estaris became pastor of St. Anthony's Parish, he also warmly welcomed the Fraternity priests. Fr. Novokowsky was transferred to Ottawa in the summer of 2003; the Latin Mass Community is now being served by Fr. Christopher Blust. A native of Calgary, Fr. Blust was ordained June 30, 2001, and celebrated his second Solemn High Mass at St. Anthony's on July 8, 2001

April 2006 (Added Later)

The St. Anthony's Latin Mass Community in Calgary continues to flourish, with the establishment of a 7:15 a.m. Low Mass on Sundays, in addition to the noon High Mass. Fr. Christopher Blust, FSSP, is the associate pastor at St. Anthony's and continues chaplaincy duties at the Rocky View Hospital. There are approximately 250 attendees at the two Sunday Masses, including 45 families and 165 children of all ages. Fr. has daily confessions before and after Mass, with additional hours on Saturdays. Some 10 Altar acolytes have been trained to serve the Holy Mass and they are a dedicated group.

Monthly potluck lunches, as well as twice monthly coffeetimes bring families together for social times.

Fr. Blust instructs Marriage Preparation - with three couples for September 2006, and RCIA for converts, the latter numbering up to eleven candidates in 2005-06.

There will be eight students receiving First Confession/First Communion on April 30, 2006.

Confirmation, scheduled for November 2006, will have approximately 10 candidates from Latin Mass. Baptisms too are on the rise, with five being celebrated since January 2006.

Homeschooled children receive Catechism instruction from Father Blust every second week, with 14 students between 6-14 years, and six pre-schoolers.

Latin Mass attendees are instrumental in support of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel that is nearing three years of operation. The Legion of Mary is well supported, with Father attending weekly sessions. The Latin Mass Committee was established to assist the priest with the administration and organization required for this growing apostolate.

The fourth annual summer Catechism Camp is being planned again this year with the attendance of Fraternity of St. Peter seminarians and Fr. Blust at this parent-organized event. This camp-setting, with its combination of recreation and catechism has been found to be very beneficial.

The Schola continues to sing Gregorian chant and polyphony each Sunday and on major feasts. Daily Latin Mass is well attended, with Benediction on Thursday evenings. During Lent the Stations of the Cross are held on Friday evenings.

The Calgary chapter of Una Voce, newly formed in February 2004, now has over 80 members. Incorporation as a not-for-profit society under Alberta law has been completed, as well as charitable status. An informational brochure is available as is a website designed to inform Albertans about the work of Una Voce (www.unavocecalgary.org). The Calgary chapter is grateful for the support and guidance of the Vancouver chapter of Una Voce.

Financial support for the new Fraternity community house continues, with the usual generosity and commitment of the Latin Mass community. The new Fraternity house has been rented since January, with Fr. Blust moving into the house in February, after many hours spent by Latin Mass volunteers cleaning, painting, and furnishing the house. The reason for the house is to enable a second Fraternity priest to come to Calgary, with the hope of travelling to Edmonton on a more frequent basis to say Mass for the their growing community. Father Blust currently travels to Edmonton every second week to say the Latin Mass for the community there, with the permission of Archbishop Thomas Collins.
