

VANCOUVER TRADITIONAL MASS SOCIETY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

By Moira Garneau President

1989 - 1990

The VTMS had a very enthusiastic beginning with a continual increase in both members and donations. Members became interested in an organization such as the VTMS after the Holy Father issued a papal document entitled *Ecclesia Dei*, granting legitimacy and encouragement to those faithful Catholics preferring the former rite of Mass and other traditional devotions. A Pontifical Commission was established by Rome to facilitate the objectives of the document and provide a pastoral resource to faithful Catholics and local ecclesiastical authorities. New directives of this sort often require a period of clarification, and such was the case in our diocese. The local diocesan authorities were open to accepting an organization such as the VTMS, but required clarification regarding our canonical status. This query was put before the *Ecclesia Dei* Commission in Rome.

The VTMS assumed a low profile during this period, reducing planned activities. Publicity was curtailed and conferences were postponed. In May 1990, the *Ecclesia Dei* Commission reaffirmed the Holy Father's wish to grant associations such as the VTMS the canonical right to exist. Seeking additional canonical establishment in the diocese is optional.

The following Activities were carried out. by the VTMS for the year ended September 30, 1990:

- One of the members of the VTMS collected in excess of 400 signatures as evidence of the need to establish further traditional Masses within the diocese beyond the single weekly Mass presently available at Holy Spirit Parish in Queensborough, New Westminster;
- A petition of 60 signatures was obtained to request a Gregorian Tridentine Mass on the North Shore of Vancouver (i.e. the Municipalities of West & North Vancouver);
- A sample letter to request additional Tridentine Masses in individual parishes was included in the May 1990 VTMS Newsletter;

- A petition to establish a local ordinariate was circulated to the membership on December 17, 1989 and was sent to the Ecclesia Dei Commission in Rome.
- Fr. John Mole, O.M.I., introduced the membership to the “Devotion to the Precious Blood” in August 1989, in Vancouver. The VTMS was subsequently consecrated to the Pious Union of the Precious Blood by Fr. D. Neumann, following a celebration of the Traditional Mass on September 2, 1989;

This devotion seeks to promote the understanding of the Mass as a sacrifice. It teaches those who prefer the traditional rite to defend the Mass in a manner that cannot be dismissed by the Church with cogent theological, historical, liturgical and cultural arguments. A group on the North Shore has been formalized and meets monthly, several other groups are in the formative stages in Vancouver, White Rock and Delta, B.C. Fr, John Mole, O.M.I., met with these groups in January 1990,

- Mr. Mark Donnelly, the VTMS Music Director, prepared an article on Sacred Music for the January 1990, VTMS Newsletter, In addition, he organized and directed the schola and choirs and sung the Ordinaries and Propers for several of the scheduled Tridentine Masses;
An adult choir met weekly from November, 1989 to April, 1990 and on other occasions to prepare for the sung Tridentine and Latin “Novus ordo” Masses in the diocese;
A children’s choir was initiated on the North Shore in January, 1990 and met weekly until the end of June 1990. This activity was quite successful and will be continued on a monthly basis, with two proposed workshops during the summer of 1991. The purpose of this choir is to train the children to sing Gregorian Chant;
Music was printed for the Children’s Choir and those attending the Traditional Mass in Oueensborough to assist in the singing of the seasonal Marian anthem as well as chants for the Ordinaries of the Mass when permitted.
- Altar boys have been taught the Latin responses as well as the rubrics of the Gregorian Tridentine Mass. During July 1989, altarboys on the North Shore received a total of ten hours of instruction in their duties and

responsibilities, including lectures, practice sessions, tapes and other resource materials. In February 1990, a three-hour follow-up session was given by Fr. D, Neumann;

Ongoing weekly training continues at Holy Spirit Parish in Queensborough, New Westminster. Seven altar boys have been trained to date with two more commencing training and a further two who have received resource materials.

- The VTMS President and Vice-President met regionally throughout the period with VTMS members in Vancouver, Delta and Abbotsford to share information and ideas;
The President and Vice-President attended the 22nd “Wanderer Forum” in St. Paul, Minnesota in October 1989 (particulars of which were included with the initial submission of documents to Revenue Canada regarding VTMS Activities in December 1989). They also attended the Women for Life, Faith and the Family Conference in Abbotsford earlier that year.
- The chief fundraising efforts were directed towards selling all-occasion cards depicting the Sacred Elevation during a Traditional Mass, together with the sale of topical books;
The booklet entitled “Christ Instituted the Mass” was reprinted and distributed to the membership, from which voluntary donations were accepted;
In addition, donations from VTMS contributors occurred throughout the year without a formal appeal.
- Six Newsletters were prepared and distributed to the membership throughout the period of this report. The purpose of these Newsletters was to keep the membership informed of local, national and international developments respecting the Traditional Mass and to provide the membership with articles relating to the Mass, Sacred Music, the Latin language and other pertinent literature regarding the Traditional Mass movement.
- While not a VTMS-sponsored event, an evening lecture was organized by VTMS members which enabled the membership to benefit from a presentation by Mr. Michael Davies, an internationally-known British author, lecturer and spokesman for the Traditional Mass. Over 300

people attended and a videotape was produced of the presentation for future reference.