

Coalition in Support of **ECCLÉSIA DEI**

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Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary,
That never was it known,
That anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee,
O virgin of virgins, my mother.
To thee I come, before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy, hear and answer me.
Amen.

(Prayer of Saint Bernard)

Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us.
Mary, Queen of the Liturgy, Pray for us.
Mary, Mother of Priests, Pray for them.



AUGUST, 2009

The summer months have been busy ones. On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Pope Benedict XVI formally inaugurated the Year for Priests, in a bid for a spiritual renewal. Quoting St. John Vianney, he said “Priesthood is love of the Heart of Christ.” The Holy Father cited the Cure of Ars as a model for parish priests. During this year, let us resolve to pray daily for all priests and seminarians. Page 3 of this letter has several suggested prayers; offering a daily Rosary for priests would be appropriate. Our leaflet, *Rosary for Priests*, has meditations specifically for priests, and we are filling orders by the hundreds. It is now available in Spanish as well as English.

In July, Pope Benedict issued his third encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, which deserves prayerful study and reflection by all Catholics. It is not, as some secular reports would tell us, a “call for a new world order.” The secular press will not report the strong defense of human life at all stages, and the Holy Father’s insistence that there can be no valid economic system not firmly grounded in the moral law.

In a long anticipated move, the Holy Father issued a *motu proprio* merging Commission *Ecclesia Dei* into the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. This strengthens *Ecclesia Dei*, which no longer has the minor status of a Commission but now is part of the most powerful Congregation in the Vatican, with its own Secretary. For a detailed explanation, please see the report on page 2.

This summer marks the second anniversary of the *motu proprio Summorum Pontificum*, issued July 7, 2007, becoming effective September 14, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Implementation has ranged from joyful acceptance and full integration into parish Mass schedules to outright opposition from poorly informed priests and laity, and recalcitrant bishops. The latter can no longer forbid a priest from saying the Mass (and the priest no longer needs permission). But we hear of some bishops who impose on their priests stringent requirements, for example in Latin proficiency.

To help us assess both the good situations and the bad, please see the Survey on page 4 and fill out whichever sections apply to your experience. We will be especially grateful to hear from priests who have had problems. Your names, of course, will be kept confidential.

Thank you for your help with this important survey, for your prayers, orders, and donations, and for your dedication to the Traditional Latin Mass. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in Christ,
Mary M. Kraychy
Executive Director

Mary M. Kraychy

Pope Benedict XVI has restructured Commission *Ecclesia Dei*, uniting it with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Unfortunately some “liberal” commentators have distorted this action as a reprimand of Dario Cardinal Hoyos, who, at age 80, is retiring as President of Commission *Ecclesia Dei* after many years of faithful and productive service.

In fact, the Holy Father expressed his gratitude to Cardinal Hoyos for his “great dedication to the work of *Ecclesia Dei*.” This was through a letter handwritten by the Pontiff himself.

Commentary by Fr. John Zuhlsdorf on the reorganization of Commission *Ecclesia Dei* puts the matter into perspective:

Because of the good progress of the last few years with the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX), His Holiness has now taken the next logical step.

By means of a new Motu Proprio called *Ecclesiae unitatem*, signed on the anniversary of the 1988 establishment of the Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei* (PCED), Pope Benedict implemented what he said he would do after he lifted the excommunication of the four bishops of the SSPX. He fused the PCED into the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), making the Prefect of the CDF, *ex officio*, the Commission’s President. The Commission’s new Secretary will be Msgr. Guido Posso, an official of the CDF and Adjunct Secretary of the International Theological Commission. I am told that Msgr. Posso is a longtime diligent official and gifted linguist. Msgr. Camille Perl, the long-suffering and long-serving Vice President of the Commission, will not continue with the PCED, nor will the role of Vice President.

In any event, the restructuring was the next and logical step in a long process.

It is important to understand that this was a necessary and logical step.

Some in the liberal Catholic media will attempt to spin this necessary and logical step as a punitive measure. They will claim that the Holy Father has ceded to pressure applied to him after the “horrible mistake of lifting the excommunication of a man who denies that the World War II Holocaust took place.” They will maintain that restructuring the PCED and making William Cardinal Levada the new President was a way of punishing outgoing Dario Cardinal Hoyos and the rest of the staff....

That would be wrong, of course. This was not punitive, nor was anyone “fired.”

The pope’s new Motu Proprio and restructuring came a few days after Cardinal Castrillon turned 80 years old on July 4. Curial cardinals usually step down from their mandates at 80, when they also lose their right to vote in a papal conclave.

Furthermore, the Holy Father explained in *Ecclesiae unitatem* why he did what he did. Because of his mandate, his responsibility as Peter, the Holy Father is trying to foster the unity of Christians.

No, this restructuring was the next step in preparation for the doctrinal discussions that must take place between

the Holy See and the SSPX. Progress in the bridge building is going brick by brick.

In July 2007 Pope Benedict issued a text of the Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* (which would have been issued regardless of the existence of the SSPX) as a gesture of goodwill concerning a division over liturgy. *Summorum Pontificum* emancipated the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* and other liturgical books in force at the time the Second Vatican Council began. This was a *relatively easy* thing to do, despite the controversy, because it merely expanded the rights all Latin Rite priests should have already enjoyed. Yet it was also an olive branch for the SSPX.

In June 2008 Cardinal Castrillon sent a letter to SSPX Bishop and Superior Bernard Fellay enumerating various preconditions that the SSPX had to adhere to before any further dialogue could take place. The SSPX effectively signed off on those points. This signaled a shift in attitude toward continuing dialogue. The next step could be taken.

In January 2009 the Holy Father did another *relatively easy* thing in lifting the excommunications incurred with the four SSPX bishops in accepting illicit consecration in 1988. Censures are meant to remedy a problem. The problem wasn’t remedied. It was clear that something else had to be done to remedy the situation. Thus, despite the controversy, this was a relatively easy thing to do. Pope Benedict has explained more than once why he did this, but did so again in *Ecclesiae unitatem*: “We intended to take away an obstacle which could have jeopardized the opening of a door to dialogue and in this way invite the Bishops and the [SSPX] to regain the path toward full communion with the Church.”

Now that those relatively easy things have been done, the *really hard* part can begin: doctrinal discussions. The Holy Father has now provided a structure in the Curia, in the proper dicastery, for those doctrinal discussions. As the Holy Father wrote in the new Motu Proprio, “the doctrinal questions, obviously, remain and, so long as they are not clarified, the [SSPX] does not have a canonical statute in the Church, and its ministers cannot in a legitimate way exercise any ministry.”

No one in the Curia — or the SSPX — has a better perspective on the issues surrounding the SSPX and their concerns than Joseph Ratzinger, Benedict XVI, who also knows his way around the halls of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Patiently, our great bridge builder, *pontifex maximus*, is making progress. ✠

Reprinted with permission from Fr. Zuhlsdorf and
The Wanderer 201 Ohio St, Saint Paul, MN 55107
\$65.00 per year, published weekly.

“What Does the Prayer Really Say”, 16 July, 2009.

Father’s column aims to help readers explore and love more deeply the true content of the prayers of Holy Mass.

Fr. Zuhlsdorf welcomes e-mail: (frz@wdtprs.com).

Send letters in care of *The Wanderer*. Visit his internet blog, (wdtprs.com). **Father is available for conferences and retreats.**

Year of the Priest

Prayer for the Holy Father

O God, the Shepherd and Ruler of all the faithful, graciously look upon Thy servant Benedict whom Thou hast been pleased to appoint pastor over Thy Church: grant, we beseech Thee, that by both word and example, he may edify those over whom he is set, and together with the flock entrusted to his care, may attain to eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. AMEN.

Collect of the Mass for the Coronation of a Pope.

Prayer for Priests

O Almighty Eternal God, look upon the Face of Thy Son, and for the love of Him Who is the eternal High Priest, have pity on Thy priests.

Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation, which is in them by the imposition of the bishop's hands. Keep them close to Thee, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray Thee for Thy faithful and fervent priests; for Thy unfaithful and tepid priests; for Thy priests laboring at home, or abroad in distant mission fields; for Thy tempted priests; for Thy lonely priests; for the souls of Thy priests in purgatory.

But above all I commend to Thee the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted, and who gave me Thy Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me, or helped and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly _____.

O Jesus, keep them all close to Thy heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in Eternity. AMEN.

The late Richard Cardinal Cushing,
Archbishop of Boston

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of Thy priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your sons who are close to you because of their priestly ordination, and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. AMEN. The late John Cardinal Carberry,
Archbishop of St. Louis

Dom Prosper Geranger, in his commentary on the Holy Mass, reflects on the importance of the Holy Sacrifice and the priests who offer Mass:

"...Thus does Holy Church give all her members a participation in the Great Sacrifice. So true is this, that were the Mass to be done away with, we should quickly fall again into the state of depravity in which pagan nations are sunk: and this is to be the work of Antichrist. He will take every possible means to prevent the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, so that this great counterpoise being taken away, God would necessarily put an end to all things, having now no object left in their further subsistence...."

"Social wars have been waged, one after another, carrying desolation along with them, and all this solely because the intensity of the Great Sacrifice of the Mass has been diminished.

"Terrible as this is, it is but the beginning of that which is to happen when the devil and his agents, let loose upon the earth, will pour out a torrent of trouble and desolation everywhere... By dint of preventing Ordinations and putting Priests to death, the devil will at length prevail so far as that the celebration of the Great Sacrifice will be suspended; then will come those days of horror and misery for our earth."

In referring to the Holy Sacrifice: "...Well may the devil be enraged at such a sight, well may he make every effort to do away with Faith in the Real Presence, striving to overturn our Altars, and diminish the number of Priests, so that, at least, fewer Masses be offered to God."

SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM SURVEY

To better ascertain the growth of the Traditional Latin Mass under the *moto proprio SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM*, we need specific details on its implementation in the United States. Please send information on Masses started since July, 2007. Those of you who have requested the Mass without success are strongly encouraged to report in detail on your efforts. **Your prompt response will be appreciated (no later than 1 October, 2009, please).**

Name (please print all responses)	Phone/e-mail		
Address	City	State	ZIP
Name of Organization (if applicable)	Diocese		

1) Mass started on _____

Parish or Church	City	Diocese	
Mass schedule (please indicate High Mass and/or Low Mass)	Sunday	Weekdays	
# priests offering Mass	# resident	# visiting	Name of Pastor
# in attendance	(# parishioners)	(# others)	
Describe any educational program used to explain the Mass to parishioners, newcomers.			
Bishop offered/attended Mass? (name, date)	Bishop Confirmed in Old Rite? (name, date)		

2) Request denied:

Diocese	Bishop		
Parish	City	Pastor	
Request date(s)	# persons requesting		
Outcome of your request(s)			

To include other pertinent information, such as: church officials dealt with, i.e. chancellor, auxiliary bishop, diocesan liturgy committee; outcome and length of meeting(s), please use a separate sheet of paper. Attach copies of correspondence – keep your original documents since we will be unable to return.

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE!

Return information to: **Coalition *Ecclesia Dei*, PO Box 2071, Glenview, IL 60025**