

All Saints Day, 1 November 2007

Dear LMS Member,

### **Provision of the Traditional Mass and Sacraments**

I am sorry to say the LMS is receiving mixed reports as to the willingness of some bishops to enter into the spirit of the Holy Father's *Motu Proprio*, '*Summorum Pontificum*'. While it is early days it is becoming clear that some bishops are ignoring the fact that with the *Motu Proprio* we have entered a whole new world. For instance, it is quite clear that the Holy Father foresees that there should be regular parish Masses on Sundays and Holy Days where these are requested or the parish priest prefers, and that personal parishes should be erected where there is a need.

Several bishops have also instructed their priests to report to them all requests for the Traditional Mass and Sacraments. As you know, the bishops propose to send a report to Rome in three years time and they are already collecting statistics as to the level of demand. No requests equal no demand!

**Hence it is very important that all LMS members and supporters make formal requests, preferably in writing, to their parish priests for regular celebrations of the Traditional Mass and Sacraments.**

The procedure as laid down in the *Motu Proprio* is as follows:

You should approach your parish priest with a request that he offer the Mass and Sacraments to include Sundays and Holy Days. There is **NO MENTION** in the *Motu Proprio* of 'stable groups' or of minimum numbers, but obviously if you gather together a number of names, this is helpful. Your request to the priest should be in writing, polite and should make no comment about the new rite. The *Motu Proprio* asks the priest to accept your request "willingly".

If the priest cannot or will not grant your request you should write to the bishop, again remaining polite and making no comment on the new rite. The *Motu Proprio* states: "The bishop is strongly requested to satisfy [your] wishes." If he cannot, he is to refer the matter to the Ecclesia Dei Commission in Rome. You should do so as well in writing and politely.

**At this stage, if not before, it is important that you copy all correspondence, including priests' and bishops' replies, to the LMS office so we can build up a picture nationwide of what is happening.**

Note: The Ecclesia Dei Commission is urgently preparing a document to give guidelines on how the *Motu Proprio* is to be interpreted. They need to know how bishops are currently interpreting the *Motu Proprio*. Hence, the LMS will shortly send its own dossier to the Ecclesia Dei Commission to help in their preparation of the

document. Our dossier will include an analysis of the bishops' *ad clerums* and a file of evidence on how individual requests have been treated. When writing to the LMS please state whether you wish your particular case to be copied by us to Rome. It may be that Rome will divulge details of individual cases to the bishop concerned and you should therefore be prepared to be identified.

Please note it is important to make your requests and not leave it to others. The bishops will be collating statistics on requests for the Traditional Mass and Sacraments and may well tell Rome that there is little need for extra provision in England and Wales. We must show this is wrong. Don't forget to copy your requests to priests and bishops to the LMS office. Hearsay is not sufficient!

(You may like to know that the Chairman of the LMS has made a formal request to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales for an early meeting to discuss the speedy and full implementation of the *Motu Proprio*.)

If you need further advice or guidance feel free to contact me in the LMS office.

Yours in Domino,

John Medlin  
General Manager

**P.S. This letter applies to members in England and Wales only.** If you reside in Scotland or Northern Ireland you should liaise with your own national organisation as follows:

Scotland: Una Voce Scotland, Tel: 0131 332 3001

Ireland: Latin Mass Society of Ireland, e mail: [plaigh@esatclear.ie](mailto:plaigh@esatclear.ie)