

***How to make your community thrive
around the traditional Roman (Latin) Mass***

Or maybe just improve on conditions!

So, you have the traditional Mass in your diocese? Are the conditions like how many other places - once per month on a Thursday around 10:00p.m. but only after a full moon in months containing the letter "o", within 39 days of the last equinox?

Or are conditions a bit better than that? No matter. The following is an outline of the best and most necessary ingredients to improve conditions for the Latin Mass, and, *Deo volente*, to help the faithful community thrive and grow.

Quit complaining, don't wait for others to act, and don't seek permission for something you may or must do yourself. The key is simple but persistent effort, not lots of time or hard work.

1) Pray to Our Blessed Lady.

Pray the Holy Rosary for the continuation and improvement of conditions for use of the traditional Missal and disciplines. Pray that many newcomers be added to your community. Pray that the enemies of the Mass be humbled.

2) Offer coffee & donuts - or brunch - after Sunday Mass & holy days.

Show your good cheer and don't give anyone reasons not to come back. Assign a few ushers to introduce themselves to everybody and get to know especially the newcomers, to invite them to the after-Mass social. Use sign-up sheets to obtain everybody's address and phone number to keep in touch with them.

3) Be missionary and set a good example.

Each week, invite and try to bring at least one other (i.e. non-Latin-Mass-going) person or family to the Latin Mass. Start with family, then friends, then acquaintances, potential converts, then everyone else. Frequently remind other Latin Mass-goers to do the same (by e-mail and phone), to help everyone form a habit of attending the Latin Mass.

4) Music is crucial.

The heritage of Catholic sacred music is rich enough to feed any soul starving for transcendence and beauty. For advice about how to start a choir or how do the best with the music you have, contact NCCL. 610/435-2634 nccl.apostolate@gmail.com

5) Missals are a must.

Unless already fluent in Latin, every Latin-Mass goer needs a missal to follow - to pray - the Holy Mass. *The Coalition in Support of Ecclesia Dei* has prepared the now famous "red missal", which can be ordered in bulk and is very helpful getting started. Coalition in Support of *Ecclesia Dei* 4545 W 63rd St, Chicago IL 60629; tel 773/284-7785 www.ecclesiadei.org

There are nowadays plenty of re-prints of the daily missal, too. Check the web.

6) Communicate by e-mail.

Schedule a short note to arrive each Thursday, with enough time to prepare for Sunday Mass but not enough time to forget. If you have the Mass each week and are working to have it every day, send out an e-bulletin at least monthly with tips about how each person or family can do one simple act to contribute to obtaining a daily or otherwise more frequent Mass.

Include any recent news or edifying stories. (There is no need at first to prepare a newsletter. That demands a lot of work with scant results to justify all the labor. Get them there first: the news will make itself thereafter.)

The weekly or monthly note to remind everyone about the upcoming Mass might read as follows:

Dear Friend of the Latin Mass,

This Sunday, November 2, is the first Sunday of the month and the Latin Mass begins at 9:30 at St. John's on Main Street in downtown Littleton.

Because November 2, the Feast of All Souls, falls this year on a Sunday it is transferred to Monday, and we shall celebrate in its place -- as is the custom in the Roman Rite -- the Feast of All Saints. The readings for this Sunday are taken from St. John's Gospel chapter 6, verses 22-72, and from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians chapter 11, verses 1-34.

As last month coffee and donuts will be served in the social hall across the street [or at the diner] immediately after Holy Mass. Be sure to invite newcomers you see, and bring one other individual or family with you to Mass. Please call me if you have any questions. See you there!

Follow-up some of the letters with key phone calls; have a checklist of questions: (1) Are you coming? (2) Will you come to the social hall or diner for coffee and donuts? (3) How many non-Latin-Mass-goers have you invited and how many are coming to Mass with you?

7) Stay in touch with your fellow parishioners.

Practice hospitality by inviting a family over for supper. Start a reading/study group that meets regularly - e.g., to learn how to pray the old Mass well, or to learn the *Catechism of the Council of Trent*. Home-schooling families can get together to celebrate major feasts, take field trips, *et cetera*. In short, get to know better and associate with your fellow parishioners.

8) Notify a local newspaper of the restoration of the Mass.

Contact NCCL for a sample news release/article. After the report appears in print, be sure to have clipboards and sign-up sheets ready at each exit of the church to get the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the newcomers, so you can keep them in touch with the parish & the Sacraments.

9) Subscribe to authentically Catholic periodicals.

The Remnant is the voice of traditional Catholicism for almost 50 years. A fortnightly publication, it can also be ordered in bulk and offered for sale at

Mass. The Remnant Newspaper - P.O. Box 1117, Forest Lake MN 55025 tel 651/433-5425
www.remnantnewspaper.com admin@remnantnewspaper.com

The Latin Mass, a quarterly magazine, is also edifying reading. Contact *The Latin Mass* at Keep the Faith - 70 Lake St, Ramsey NJ 07446 www.latinmassmagazine.com
admin@latinmassmagazine.com tel 201/327-5900

In sum, four apostolates combine to make a traditional community thrive.

- a. music - by choir or/and schola
- b. hospitality - brunch & fellowship
- c. education - of youths & adults
- d. charity - out-reach to the poor & needy (e.g., pro-life), including missionary action to attract converts & faithful to worship in the traditional rites

Call on the **NCCL** apostolate for details. 610/435-2634 nccl.apostolate@gmail.com

Time to petition the bishop to erect a traditional parish?

Is your community stable and ready to expand? Consult **NCCL**. 610/435-2634
nccl.apostolate@gmail.com

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www.national-coalition.org
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