



To: His Excellence Mgr. Gänswein,  
Secretary of His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI

Delft, The Netherlands

Our Lady of Fatima, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Your Excellency,

Enclosed you will find two copies of a '*Bouquet of Testimonies*', one for His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and one for you, as well as an accompanying letter to His Holiness. I kindly request that you hand over to him both the *Bouquet* and its accompanying cover letter.

The collection of personal testimonies enclosed are from faithful individuals in The Netherlands describing their discovery, experience and understanding of the spiritual attractiveness of the Roman Rite in the Extraordinary Form, forming a vivid anthology or "*Bouquet of Testimonies*". This may be considered as a '***Crowning glory for the Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum 2007***'. Herewith we wish to demonstrate and express our sincere gratitude to His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The intention behind this initiative is indeed a direct consequence of the recent promulgation of the Motu Proprio *Traditionis Custodes*. Those of us who have come to appreciate, love and even re-discover the Traditional Latin Mass of the Roman Rite, feel strongly that *Traditionis Custodes* directly contradicts the intention of *Summorum Pontificum* by abrogating it as if it is only a matter of mere discipline. We are particularly distressed to realize that His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI is the main victim. We can barely dare to imagine the distress with which His Holiness must be confronted following the unexpected publication of *Traditionis Custodes* by his successor.

As a form of truthful and sincere consolation, we offer this '*Bouquet of Testimonies*' to his Holiness. It beautifully and validly illustrates, the surprising and wonderful work, which the Holy Spirit is carrying out by means of graces and blessings flowing from *Sumorum Pontificum*. The profound words of wisdom that His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote to the bishops in his accompanying letter on the publication of the 2007 Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, remain true and applicable even more so today: '***What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful***'. These truths cannot be denied and/or abrogated and therefore we question the fundamental veracity and validity of *Traditionis Custodes*.

In 2007 as the then acting president of the Foederatio Internationalis *Una Voce* (2006-2007), I am very well aware of the courage His Holiness Pope-Emeritus



Benedict XVI showed in those days by issuing his Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* against enormous opposition. An opposition that continues, and even today is fully confirmed by the publication of *Traditiones Custodes*. It is as if the Traditional Latin Mass has been declared *Anathema*. His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, then fully deserves and with this communication is rewarded by a sign of our abiding gratitude. We hope and pray that it will console, sustain and fortify him against these profoundly unjustified attacks on his work.

Since the 2007 Motu Proprio has enabled many believers, especially many young priests, to experience this sacred and venerable liturgical form, we can be sure that, despite the Motu Proprio *Traditionis Custodes*, this experience cannot be erased from their memory. As such, we are confident that the Traditional Latin Mass will continue to survive and flourish, for which we owe His Holiness an abiding and profound gratitude. What truly belongs to God will remain standing.

With heartfelt gratitude for your kind and generous consideration, we humbly beg your sincere prayers for the continued free use of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Liturgy for both priests and faithful. We offer you the assurance of our filial support and prayers and we humbly ask for the grace of your blessing.

Faithfully in Christo,

Jack P. Oostveen,

President of 'Ecclesia Dei Delft', The Netherlands

Acting-president of the Foederatio Internationalis Una Voce in  
2006-2007

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