



To: His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI

Delft, The Netherlands

Our Lady of Fatima, October 13th, 2021

Your Holiness,

Herewith we offer you a “*Bouquet of Testimonies*”, a “*Crown for the Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum 2007*”

The collection of personal testimonies attached 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*”.

These represent all age groups; young and old, families with children and converts in all kinds of social and cultural circumstances. This “*Bouquet of Testimonies*” validly illustrates the wonderful truth of the words you wrote in your letter to the Bishops accompanying publication of your Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* (2007): ‘**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**’. Above all, it clearly shows us the surprising and miraculous way in which the Holy Spirit is working through this very valuable initiative of yours.

With this “*Bouquet of Testimonies*” we wish to express our continued and profound gratitude to you for the release of your 2007 Motu Proprio. This is even more necessary in these days when the free use of the Traditional Latin Liturgy is being so strongly discouraged and suppressed in a manner as to make its future uncertain. Such an unprecedented suppression of a venerable, fruitful and Sacred Liturgical Form has never been seen before in the history of the Church. The testimonies presented to you here attest strongly to the fact that the Holy Spirit is still working through this Extraordinary Form even today. This confirms the very Truth of the fact that the Holy Spirit does not contradict Himself and that consequently this Sacred Liturgy in itself remains valid and can never be denied.

On the contrary, despite all good intentions, due to men’s imperfection, principally, any “*man-made*” reform or “*reconstruction of a former form*” of the expression of the “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*” will always potentially contain some misunderstood or missing elements, which must then be corrected in the light of the proven Sacred Tradition. This Sacred Tradition is unambiguously carried forward by the Traditional Latin Liturgy (Extraordinary Form), which has been preserved by and developed organically under the clear guidance of the Holy Spirit for about 20 centuries (Mediator Dei, 61-64). This fact is the very important



basic principle of what you introduced by the “*Reform of the Reform*” as one of the purposes of the *Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum*. And this is of course in full accordance with Pope John XXIII’s Opening Address of the Council when he stated: *’Never depart from the sacred heritage of truth received from the Church Fathers’* (see also *’Responsa ad Questiones’* of June 29th, 2007, first question). In this way the Traditional Latin Liturgy really functions as a guide and protector of the true “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*” rather than being a source of division within the Church.

By way of example, we can refer to the many young priests, who have learned to celebrate Mass in both Ordinary and Extraordinary forms respectively, and of especially how the Traditional Latin Liturgy has enriched their celebrations in the Ordinary Form.

We know that you must be keenly aware of and very concerned about the current situation when recalling your statement from 2001: *’Only against this background, of the effective denial of the authority of Trent, can one understand the bitterness of the struggle against allowing the celebration of the Mass according to the 1962 missal after the liturgical reform. The possibility of so celebrating constitutes the strongest (and thus, for them) the most intolerable contradiction of the opinion of those who believe that the faith in the Eucharist, as formulated by Trent, has lost its validity’* (proceedings of the July 2001 Fontgombault Conference, ed. Alcuin Reid, pp18-31, p20).

We understand therefore, that this resistance is neither simply or solely a matter of discipline nor execution of the Petrine privilege. It is rather that the “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*” of the Ordinary Form that can potentially be misinterpreted in a way which contradicts the original and authentic hermeneutics of the Church as indicated by Pope John XXIII in his opening address to the Council, referred to above. Those maintaining such an interpretation are clearly and realistically fearful of correction with reference to the original and authentic Traditional Latin Roman liturgy, and hence desire its elimination. This suppression of the Traditional Latin Liturgy carries therefore a fundamental risk that misunderstood or missing elements of the “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*” in the Ordinary Form, will no longer be subject to correction and will continue to exist or even multiply with the associated danger of abuses and heresy precisely through such incorrect interpretations.

Consequently, we would like to offer you our support and express our own serious concerns regarding this situation. We therefore humbly beg and implore you to kindly mediate with your successor, His Holiness Pope Francis, that he may save and maintain in perpetuity the timeless beauty of the Traditional Latin Liturgy, so that the Holy Spirit may continue to work through it (as wonderfully demonstrated by the testimonies attached), for the good of the faithful and for the universal Holy Catholic Church.



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 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