



To: His Holiness Pope Francis

Delft, The Netherlands,
St. Lucas, October 18th, 2021
Your Holiness,

Herewith we offer you a '*Bouquet of Testimonies*' and 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.

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 confirms and illustrates the wonderful truth of the words your predecessor, His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI, wrote in his letter to the Bishops accompanying publication of the 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 your predecessor Pope Benedictus XVI.

With this "*Bouquet of Testimonies*" we wish to express our continued and profound gratitude to your predecessor for the release of this 2007 Motu Proprio. This is even more necessary in these days when the free use of the Traditional Latin Liturgy is being strongly discouraged and suppressed via the recent Motu Proprio *Traditionis_Custodes*. Such an unusual and unprecedented suppression of a venerable, fruitful and Sacred Liturgical Form through which the Holy Spirit is still evidently working, has never before been seen in the history of the Church. The testimonies presented to you here strongly support and provide real and concrete evidence for the fact that the Holy Spirit is certainly working through this Extraordinary Form even today. It also confirms the Truth of the fact that the Holy Spirit does not contradict Himself and that consequently this Sacred Liturgical Form in itself remains valid and may never be denied or suppressed.

On the contrary, despite many good intentions, but due to men's imperfection, principally, any "*man-made*" reform or a '*reconstruction of a former form*' of the liturgical 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 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 simple fact is the very



important basic principle of what your predecessor introduced through his “*Reform of the Reform*” as one of the fundamental purposes of the 2007 Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*. Moreover, this is of course in full accordance and compliance 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 an excellent guide and protector of the true “*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*” rather than being a source of division within the Church.

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

We know that His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI must be keenly aware of and very concerned about the current situation. We recall his statement from 2001 (while in his previous role as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith): “*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 can potentially be misinterpreted in a way which contradicts the original and authentic hermeneutics of the Church as described so clearly by Pope John XXIII in his opening address to the Council, referred to above. Those maintaining such resistance are clearly and realistically fearful of correction with reference to the original and authentic Traditional Latin Roman liturgy, and hence logically desire its elimination. This suppression of the Traditional Latin Liturgy carries therefore a fundamental risk and danger that the propagation of abuses, further errors and division in the Church will continue.

Here Pope St. John XXIII's prophetic words during his announcement of the Council are very relevant and telling. Of particular relevance is when he describes lessons from the history of Christianity where the spiritual strength of the Church has protected it and the faithful against these: “***errors, which... have always led to fatal and sad divisions, to spiritual and moral decadence and to the ruin of nations***”.



Consequently, we would like to offer you our spiritual and moral support and express our own serious concerns regarding this situation. We therefore humbly beg and implore you to reflect on and kindly consider:

- How the Holy Spirit is surprisingly and miraculously acting through the Traditional Latin Liturgy as demonstrated by the attached testimonies.
- How your predecessor, Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI, has shown great courage by issuing the 2007 Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum* based on the fundamental Truth that cannot be denied and abrogated: ”***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***”. He did so despite strong opposition from some, who wish to interpret the Second Vatican Council as contrary to the true hermeneutic of the Church stated by Pope John XXIII in his Opening Address:
 - the sacred deposit of Christian doctrine should be guarded and taught more efficaciously;
 - should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth received from the Fathers;
 - the Church's solicitude to promote and defend truth derives from the fact that, according to the plan of God, who wills all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth;
 - the truth of the Lord will remain forever.
- How those, who from the beginning opposed publication of the 2007 Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, were also actively working against the spirit of the “***Reform of the Reform***”, and who are now claiming fallaciously that this is the real source of division within the Church. This sadly and incorrectly implies that your predecessor, His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI, is the originator of such divisions.
- That on the contrary, the true source of growing divisions within the Church is from the way in which the Council is or has been interpreted: namely either in accordance with or in contradiction to Pope John XXIII’s Opening Address to the Council, the true hermeneutic of the Church. Pope John XXIII already warned for this, when he stated “***errors, which... have always led to fatal and sad divisions, to spiritual and moral decadence and to the ruin of nations***”
- In the Announcement of the Council Pope John XXIII remind us that in an “***epoch of renewal***”, one should ”***recall certain ancient forms of doctrinal affirmation and of wise provision of ecclesiastical discipline***” through “***clarity of thought, solidarity of religious unity and the living flame of Christian fervour***”. After precisely preparing the Council in this way, he praised the Preparatory Work as a delicate and supported by the Holy Spirit: “***Supported by heavenly help, we then readied ourselves for***



the complex and delicate work of preparation. Three years have passed during which we have seen, day by day, the little seed develop and become, with the blessing of God, a great tree. ...” and *“These years have seemed to us a first sign, an initial gift of celestial grace”*.

Who is correct here, Pope John XXIII by praising the preparatory work as inspired by the Holy Spirit or those who, held a contradictory position, and as *‘prophets of doom’* forecast only disaster from the original Preparatory Documents and worked on their total rejection while claiming that they were inspired by Holy Spirit?

The answer is clearly Pope John XXIII, because the Holy Spirit cannot contradict himself.

With heartfelt gratitude for your kind and generous consideration, we humbly beg for the continued free use of the Extraordinary Form of the Liturgy so that the Holy Spirit can continue to work surprisingly and miraculously through it for the good of the Church, the priests and all 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

Cc: His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
