

lettera (poco) pastorale

Per un prete del Wisconsin la Messa tradizionale è di serie B

BORGIO PIO

30_07_2026

Pastoral Message Fr. Paul Fliss



Most recently, in Church news, Pope Leo recognized the excommunication of members from the Society of St Pius X. Within the Church a bishop is chosen by the Pope and can only be ordained with his permission. Bishops from the Society recently ordained 4 priests as Bishops for their society without permission from the Pope. This is against Church law and automatically brings about excommunication. It is always sad when disunity develops within the Church. In the eyes of the Church all their sacramental celebrations are now invalid and should not be attended by Catholics. Within the Archdiocese there was a group of Catholics who were part of the group

celebrating sacraments at a chapel in Mukwonago. Catholics should not attend any of the services offered by the Society of St Pius X.

This is not the same group that has permission to celebrate Mass in Latin according to the 1962 Roman Missal within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. They are in union with the Church, though the ritual they use does not share equal status and dignity as the Mass of Paul VI which we celebrate in English every time we celebrate Mass. Having the opportunity to celebrate this Latin Mass is an accommodation, meaning it is allowed for those who have not grown deep enough in faith to accept the Mass approved after the Second Vatican Council. The hope is the grace of God will help those participants to move past dependence on the old Latin Mass and come into communion with the rest of the Church in celebrating the Mass in the vernacular. For this reason, the Latin Mass community cannot advertise their Mass and should not invite other Catholics to join their group. While attending the Mass once can be educational and a new experience, it should not be something Catholics join, instead of attending the Sunday Mass in English. Why would someone want to take a step backward in their faith and spiritual life?

The Mass we celebrate on Sundays has a very different focus than the old Latin Mass. The Bishops of the world at the Second Vatican Council discerned the need to allow people's faith to deepen into participation that leads to becoming a more vibrant Church in how we celebrate and especially minister and serve others as baptized Catholics. This level of faith where we see Jesus in our everyday life demands more from the individual Christian, than attending a Mass where the priest says his prayers, and the faithful center on their individual relationship with God. One of the foundational spiritual principles in the Church is that the Holy Spirit always leads us into the future. Let us be people of faith and hope as we look to the future and how the Holy Spirit is gathering us together and leading us to take our grace-ful place in Christ.

Fr. Paul

Un parroco del Wisconsin prende a pretesto il caso della Fraternità Sacerdotale San Pio X per dare degli immaturi ai fedeli che frequentano la liturgia tradizionale: quella Messa è per gente poco cresciuta nella fede, sostiene padre Paul Fliss nella sua "lettera pastorale" apparsa sul bollettino delle parrocchie di Sheboygan South del 26 luglio 2026.

Il sacerdote fa leva sulle ordinazioni episcopali avvenute a Écône per dissuadere non solo dalla frequentazione della Fraternità San Pio X, ma dal rito antico in generale anche laddove è celebrato in comunione con Roma. Sin dalle righe dedicate alla San Pio X traspare l'imprecisione (per non dire la grossolanità) del sacerdote convinto che «per la Chiesa tutte le loro celebrazioni sacramentali sono ora invalide», mentre il problema di validità si pone per matrimoni e confessioni (che richiedono giurisdizione), non per le Messe e altri sacramenti che restano validi, benché illeciti.

Ma l'obiettivo principale di padre Fliss non è la FSSPX, bensì «il gruppo che ha il permesso di celebrare la Messa in latino secondo il Messale Romano del 1962 nell'arcidiocesi di Milwaukee». Il sacerdote, bontà sua, riconosce che «sono in unione con la Chiesa, ma quel rituale che usano non ha lo stesso status e dignità della Messa di Paolo VI...». Praticamente una liturgia di serie B, come nessuno mai oserebbe qualificare nessun rito della Chiesa cattolica, orientale o occidentale che sia. Invece per padre Fliss il rito romano tradizionale, anche quando autorizzato, è una liturgia di serie B per fedeli di serie B, non abbastanza maturi: «l'opportunità di celebrare questa Messa in latino è una concessione, nel senso che è permessa per coloro che non sono abbastanza cresciuti nella fede per accettare la Messa promulgata dopo il Concilio Vaticano II. La speranza è che la grazia di Dio aiuti coloro che vi partecipano a superare la dipendenza dalla vecchia Messa in latino ed entrare in comunione con il resto della Chiesa che celebra la Messa nelle lingue nazionali». Insomma, per padre Fliss questi fedeli sarebbero in comunione ma non troppo e pure immaturi e bisognosi di conversione post-conciliare.

La lettera prosegue assicurandosi di chiudere bene il ghetto "tradizionale", ricordando che costoro «non possono pubblicizzare la loro Messa e non devono invitare nessuno a unirsi al loro gruppo», e magnificando invece il superiore «livello di fede» garantito dalla liturgia riformata in inglese ma non dalla liturgia precedente (come se lo Spirito avesse dormito per secoli fino al 1970). Noi invece ci fermiamo qui,

lasciando che questa lettera (ben poco) pastorale si commenti da sé.

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