

## **A traditional holy Mass in the church of St. Dominic in Bologna**

In the splendid environment of the chapel of the basilica of St. Dominic in Bologna, which keeps in a very rich ark that has stood for centuries the relics of the Founder of the Order of Preachers, Saturday June 12 the Dominican Father Vincenzo Nuara, member of the Pontifical Commission “Ecclesia Dei”, charged to promote the application of the *Motu proprio* “Summorum Pontificum”, has celebrated a holy Mass of the Ancient Roman Rite surrounded by a group of fervorous ministers, with the participation of a liturgical Gregorian choir of Cremona, at the presence of monsignor Massimo Nanni, Archdeacon of the Cathedral and ex-Ceremonialist of Cardinal Biffi, old Archbishop of Bologna, and a thick group of faithful arrived also from out of Bologna.

The celebration has been characterized, according to its own nature, by a succession of long mystic silences, alternated by the sublimity of the Gregorian chant and by an infrequent refrain of short wordings between the priest and the faithful.

The proper beauty of this Rite is that to create an atmosphere by which, at least for those who can understand, one feels himself humbly and truly at the presence of the divine Majesty and feels nearly experimentally that an ineffable Mystery of Love and Mercy happens on the altar.

Every temptation for the priest to be a protagonist or of being a dominating assembly for the faithful is totally excluded. It is not a Mass “from below”, but a Mass “from high”. The Presence and the Action of the Mystery only springs out forward. One feels that something Sacred happens. It is a Mass which can evoke the *timor Domini*, but for this it doesn’t abdicate in anything to a filial confidence in the Father by mean of Christ in the Holy Spirit. All this is obviously perceived only in a condition of faith.

The joy which emanates from this Rite is not that secularizing joy of some celebrations which are nowadays frequent, but springs out from a suffered participation to the *Sacrifice of Christ*, actualized on the altar in a condition of listening, of pious meditation, of compunction, of adoration, of praise and of prayer.

The holy Mass had been prepared by the Vice postulation of the Cause of Beatification of the Servant of God Father Tomas Tyn, once member of the Community of the annexed convent of St. Dominic, in memory of the XX anniversary of his pious passing which happened in 1990 in Germany.

In fact Father Tyn for some years periodically had celebrated in St. Dominic the Tridentine Mass under request of the Archbishop Cardinal Biffi then in charge, to whom a group of faithful desirous to assist to such a Rite had applied.

After the death of Father Tyn the Tridentine Mass continued to be celebrated for some years. It was therefore nearly thirty years that this ancient and illustrious Rite was not celebrated in St. Dominic.

In his short speech of introduction to the holy Mass, the Vice postulator Father Giovanni Cavalcoli, after having presented the reasons and the occasion of the initiative, made mention of the fact that Father Tyn was accustomed to celebrate both the forms of Rite of Mass, so the ordinary one as the extraordinary one, so that he has proposed his achievement as a factor of conciliation and harmony between those devoted of the two types of Mass, who are inclined to unjustified exclusivisms.

On his part, Father Nuara in his homily has noticed the value and the beauty of the Tridentine Mass, underlining as in it in a very efficacious way is expressed the common elevation of priest’s and faithful’s spirit to God quoting the words of the celebrant “Sursum corda”, to whom the faithful answer: “Habemus ad Dominum”. The Tridentine Mass, the celebrant has told, is entirely an hymn of praise to divine Truth, Goodness and Beauty.

Besides, Father Nuara alluded to how much would be the joy of the Servant of God learning about the *Motu proprio* of the Holy Father, which ulteriorly permitted the celebration of the ancient Rite.

At least he has commented a passage of a letter written by the Servant of God to him who then was Cardinal Ratzinger, praising Pius V's Mass, a letter which Father Cavalcoli ha published, with Cardinal's answer, in his book *Padre Tomas Tyn, un tradizionalista postconciliare (Father Tomas Tyn, a postconciliarist traditionalist)*, Fede&Cultura Editions, Verona 2007.

Father Nuara augured that soon God may daign to raise to the honour of the altars his Servant Father Tomas Tyn.

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