

Westward Ho!

October 6, 2007

A recent case in Northern Italy confirms that in the Church's ongoing difficulties, hope lies rather at grassroots than with the Hierarchy. Three mainstream Italian parish priests, seminary comrades of ten to fifteen years ago, have been learning over the last several months to say the true Mass. Two of them have resolved "never again" hmm to say the Novus Ordo Mass. One of these has smashed his Newaltar facing the people. A charming reversal!

They asked their bishop if they could say the true Mass in public. He said it would be alright, if it was alright by Rome. They went down to Rome to ask. The "Ecclesia Dei" Commission said it would be alright "as long as there is no confrontation" – as though confrontation can be avoided in the war to the death between Catholicism and Conciliarism!

Sure enough. Their bishop has now written to them, requiring of them "to obey." We all know what that means – "Shape up (Novus Ordo shape), or ship out." Either they buckle under, or they are "suspended," "excommunicated" etc., in any case expelled from their parishes. An old pattern.

However, in Italy the SSPX has had to send out on request 600 DVD's, soon 700, on how to celebrate the true Mass, nine out of ten of them to priests and seminarians. This picture of a Hierarchy in darkness while light glimmers amongst humble priests and laity puts one in mind of a well-known English poem of yesteryear, accessible on the Internet under its title of "Say not the struggle nought availeth," by Arthur Hugh Clough. Here are the last two verses:–

For while the tired waves vainly breaking

Seem here no painful inch to gain,

Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main.
And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.
Almighty God, of your mercy look after the three priests.
Kyrie eleison.