



Most Rev. George J. Musey, D.D.

Feast of St. George
April 23, 1985

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Since I was raised to the episcopate three years ago one of my fondest hopes and earnest prayers has been that I might be used as an instrument by Our Divine Lord, to help restore unity and peace in His Bride, our Holy Mother the Church. One of the greatest scandals in the Church today is the division among those who call themselves traditional Catholics. How sad it is that instead of joining forces to repel the common enemy, so many traditionalists spend great amounts of time and energy attacking and finding fault with other traditional Roman Catholics.

Today, on the Feast of St. George, a great step was made on the path to true unity among traditional Catholics. On this day I received under my jurisdiction and bestowed conditional ordination upon three priests, members of the Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen based at Mount Saint Michael, Spokane, Washington.

These priests had originally been ordained by Bishop Francis Schuckardt, whose orders emanated from Old Catholic lines. After studying the documentation that these priests presented on their orders and after consultation with my advisors I had little reason to doubt the validity of the orders these three priests had received. Nevertheless, since the Holy See is vacant and an authoritative and binding decision on the validity of these orders cannot be made, and mindful that the validity of these orders will always be doubtful in the minds of some, I decided the most prudent course of action would be to bestow conditional ordination upon these men.

Those Catholics who have been receiving the sacraments from Fr. Denis Chicoine, Fr. Benedict Hughes and Fr. James McGilloway should not allow themselves to become troubled or perplexed on account of these conditional ordinations. Personally, I have found no reason to doubt that these men had valid orders and I believe the Church would have supplied the faculties needed in these extra-ordinary times. If any of the faithful are troubled lest anything be wanting in the canonical form of their marriage they should know that I have granted a sanatio in radice supplying for any defects in the canonical form of marriage.

Let us join together in prayers of thanksgiving to Our Divine Lord and His Blessed Mother for this great grace they have bestowed upon us. Let us join in prayer that all traditional Catholics might truly attain that unity which is the hallmark of God's Holy Church. Let us all, united in the one true Faith, stand steadfast under the banner of Mary Immaculate in the combat with the forces of Hell.

In Cordibus Eorum,

George J. Musey

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