RITES OF HOLY WEEK

ome of the most dramatic ceremonies of the Roman Rite are enacted from Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil. These liturgical acts mystically re-present Our Divine Savior's Passion and Resurrection which defeated sin and death, thereby reopening the gates of heaven to mankind.

We present here a selection of pictures from various SSPX chapels in the United States that depict various forms of the Holy Week rites that can be used depending on the ministers available.

The images from St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, MN, show the ceremonies in their full splendor according to the pontifical form celebrated by visiting Bishop Bernard Fellay, the SSPX's Superior General.

Photographs of the solemn form (celebrant, deacon and subdeacon) were unavailable this year, though we are able to show images of the semi-solemn form, which minus the subdeacon (whose duties are absorbed by the deacon) is practically identical to the former; these pictures came from St. Vincent de Paul Church in Kansas City, MO, where Fr. Jean Violette was the celebrant and Fr. Samuel Waters was the deacon.

Finally, we include pictures of the more-commonly seen simple form held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Mt. Holly (Charlotte), NC, celebrated by Fr. Kenneth Novak, and the SSPX's-affiliate of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Richmond, VA, celebrated by Fr. Christopher Pieroni.

PALM SUNDAY

Tel: (816) 753-0073 FAX (816) 753-3560

Holy Week opens on Palm Sunday, starting with the Messiah's triumphant entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem signified by the procession with palms. After the procession though, the liturgical motif quickly changes from "Hosanna in the highest to Him that comes in the name of the Lord!" and red vestments, to violet vesture and the cries to "Crucify Him!" during the chanting of the Passion.



the palms with holy water, Bishop Fellay blesses them with incense in preparation for their distribution amongst the attending clergy and faithful.

Having sprinkled

In the pontifical rite, the clergy receive their palms kneeling from the bishop seated at the throne with his assistant deacons and ministers attending.



CHAPEL IMAGES LEGEND

The origin of each picture is identified with the following abbreviations:

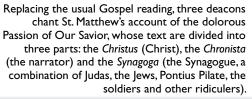
STAS: St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary
StV: St. Vincent de Paul Church
StA: St. Anthony of Padua Church
OLF: Our Lady of Fatima Church

Here the more usual method of the servers receiving at the altar is seen.





Taken through the window of the closed front door of the church, the procession awaits the chanting of the *Gloria, laus* et honor Tibi sit before the crossbearer knocks on the door thrice, then the doors (symbolizing the gates of heaven) are opened and the servers, celebrant (representing Christ taking possession of His kingdom) and the faithful enter into the Church (signifying the Heavenly Jerusalem).



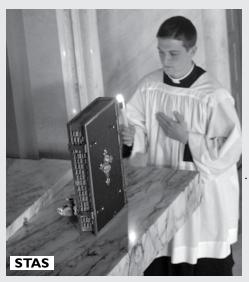


As evidenced by the cassocks, the outdoor procession with palms was made in the face of a stiff wind in Kansas City.



Tenebrae

During the Sacred Triduum, the canonical hours of Matins and Lauds are specially merged into "*Tenebrae*," meaning "shadow" or "darkness," deriving its name not only from one of the responsories sung, but also from the gradual darkness that envelops the church as the candles are extinguished after the recitation of each psalm. After Tenebrae on Good Friday, the church lights are extinguished, signifying the world's sorrow for the crucifixion and death of Our Savior, and not relit until the entrance of the Paschal Candle during the Easter Vigil.



A seminarian extinguishes the second to last candle on the Tenebrae hearse, a special candelabra that holds 15 candles, the last representing Our Lord which remains lit until the very end...

..When it is hidden behind the altar (a symbol of Our Lord's closed tomb; indeed the first Christian altars were built upon the tombs of the martyrs) signifying Christ's impending Resurrection. In this case, the altar is not freestanding, so the candle is placed behind an altar missal instead.



HOLY THURSDAY

Though plunged into sorrow on Palm Sunday, a brief glimpse of joy is seen on Maundy Thursday, so named after the *Mandatum* ceremony (or washing of the feet) that occurs on this day during which Our Lord declared, "A new commandment I give to you," referring to the supernatural charity that should bind mankind. This is also the day on which Christ instituted the priesthood and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, hence, a particularly special day for the SSPX (which was founded to form holy priests) and its seminaries. While the Last Supper is commemorated in the evening, the elaborate Chrismal Mass is celebrated in the morning hours by the diocesan bishop in his cathedral during which the holy oils of chrism, catechumens and extreme unction are consecrated.

Morning Chrismal Mass

Unable to obtain holy oils from the diocesan cathedrals, the SSPX has been required for years to have its auxiliary bishops consecrate the oils for its priests, and this year, the ceremony was carried out at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary by Bishop Fellay. The ceremony is noteworthy for having in addition to the usual ministers of the pontifical solemn Mass (assistant priest, two assistant deacons and the four ministers of the mitre, crosier, book and candle), twelve priests, seven deacons and seven subdeacons fully attired in the vestments proper to their offices (*i.e.*, respectively chasubles, dalmatics and tunicles) as was the ancient custom in the Roman Rite. Though these ministers of the oils assist with the consecration of the *olea sacra*, during most of the ceremonies they merely assist from the seats.



This bird's eye view captures the moment of the celebrating bishop reciting the *Confiteor* during the Prayers at the Foot of the Altar during the Chrismal Mass. Impressively arrayed around him in white and gold vestments are the various ministers, priests, deacons and subdeacons (some only recently ordained on April 4th) who join the regular ministers in reciting the Preparatory Prayers.

After the Consecration but just before concluding the Canon, the Mass is paused and a subdeacon, accompanied by acolytes, brings a violet-covered ambulla (vase) containing olive oil to the table, where as seen here, the bishop consecrates to become the Oleum Infirmorum for administering the sacrament of Extreme Unction.





Taken during Bishop Fellay's sermon, the table where the holy oils will be consecrated can be seen situated in the chancel's center, complete with the *Pontificale Romanum* (the ritual book for episcopal functions), candles, various vessels, the bishop's faldstool, and stools for the assistant priest, deacon and subdeacon.



After Communion, the bishop returns to the table and the ministers of the oils make a procession to and from the sacristy to bring the ampullae containing the olive oil for first making the sacred chrism, followed by the oil of catechumens. Here Bishop Fellay stirs the fragrant balsam with a little olive oil before pouring the mixture into the vase.



The bishop then breaths the sign of the cross three times upon the mixture, an action that each of the twelve priests repeat. Afterwards the bishop sings three times (each in a higher tone) "Ave, Sanctum Chrisma," finally kissing the vase's side...

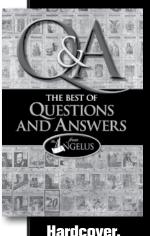


...an action that again the twelve priests repeat. Seen here breathing upon the sacred chrism is Fr. Adam Portugal, one of the many district priests who traveled specially to the seminary for this ceremony.

The Oleum Catechumenorum having been consecrated in the same manner (but without the addition of basalm), the Mass is concluded with Ite, missa est, seen here being chanted by the deacon facing the ministers and faithful.



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Please contact the retreat house in question to ensure availability before making any travel plans

Evening Mass of Holy Thursday

Commemorating the First Mass offered by Our Lord Jesus Christ in anticipation of His Crucifixion, the evening Mass includes the *Mandatum* ceremony during which the celebrant washes the feet of twelve men as the Divine Master did to His Apostles. When Mass is concluded, the Blessed Sacrament is removed to the altar of repose, where a vigil is kept until midnight, signifying Our Lord's agony in the garden. Before the ceremonies are completed though, the *Diviserunt* (or stripping of the altars) takes place.

The decorous altar of repose that some of the young ladies at Charlotte prepared in a separate room.





Here the twelve men at St. Vincent's who volunteered to have their feet washed during the *Mandatum* listen to the sermon that proceeded the touching ceremony that signifies humility, charity and the cleansing power of grace upon the soul.



Having donned an apron and after pouring water over the right foot, the celebrant dries the washed foot.



After washing the feet of all twelve men, still wearing the apron, Fr. Violette washes his hands before continuing the



In the lower chapel of St.Vincent's, two altar servers light the candles at the altar of repose during Communion in preparation for the Translation of the Blessed Sacrament.

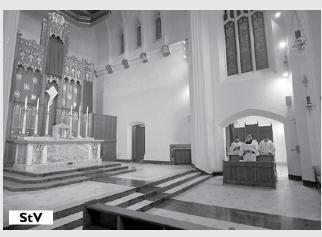
Having placed the Sanctissimum at the altar of repose, the ministers removed their upper vestments and then proceeded to strip the altars completely leaving just the veiled altar cross and candles. Here the deacon removes the altar cloths in the Lady Chapel while the servers wait to receive them.





Taken from the gallery, this angled shot shows the deacon and subdeacon removing the cloths from the seminary's high altar.

This picture, taken during Compline which immediately followed the *Dividunt*, reveals St. Vincent's altar stripped and its sanctuary completely bare.



Tables for St. Joseph,

Featured here are some pictures of various festivities held in St. Joseph's honor this year in the United States District.

DICKINSON (HOUSTON), TX

Queen of Angels Academy held an Italian cultural festival on Thursday, March 19, starting with a 7:30 a.m. Solemn Mass offered by the guest of honor, the SSPX's USA District Superior, Fr. Arnaud Rostand. Along with the ubiquitous selection of Italian food, several entertaining concerts and dance routines were offered, as well as a couple of educational conferences.

With Fr. Rostand celebrating the Solemn Mass, Fr. Steven Zigrang (center) acts as the deacon, while Fr. John Peek assists as the subdeacon.





The Irish made their appearance in commemoration of St. Patrick's feast day, and here the boys perform an Irish sailors' dance...



A view of the parishioners enjoying the wonderful Italian

while the girls performed a dance of their own, also repeated during the dinner theatre.



The prior and pastor, Fr. Stephen Stanich, along with three young Texans, play Vivaldi's Mandolin Concerto in D Major, a performance that was repeated the night of March 22nd during the Laetare Sunday Dinner Theatre.



The first conference was given on the previous day of March 20th by Mr. Angelo Gattozzi (of Austin, TX) on Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and other characters associated with the history of the Italian popes, while the second (seen here) by Mrs. Marianna Gattozzi on the life and times of St. Francis Xavier Cabrini.

Spouse of Our Lady

KANSAS CITY, MO

Continuing a tradition from 1978, St. Vincent de Paul Church's table and live auction raised approximately \$7,000, enough for the offering of 472 Masses for priests, bringing the total to 8,197 Masses. An Italian dinner was held Saturday afternoon, while the auction took place starting after the Sunday 8:00 a.m. High Mass.





An image of the St. Joseph's Table in the basement parish hall.

St.Vincent's pastor, Fr. Jean Violette, blesses the table items prior to opening the festivities. A bearded St. Joseph with staff

A specially-made bread shaped like St. Joseph's sandals.

ALLENDALE (GRAND RAPIDS), MI

St. Margaret Mary Church hosted their St. Joseph Table festivities on Sunday, March 22, with visiting priest, Fr. Carl Sulzen (stationed in St. Mary's, KS) presiding. Organized and prepared by the chapel's chapter of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, which included a breakfast followed by a skit and a live auction that raised \$4300 which will be given to St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary to help pay for a seminarian's tuition.



Substituting for the pastor, Fr. Sulzen welcomes the Holy Family (in the doorway) to the Allendale chapel.



A view of some of the tables sumptuously prepared for the event which included statutes, holy pictures. and various baked goods.



Here the parishioners enjoy the breakfast that preceded the auction.

GOOD FRIDAY

Extreme sorrow for Our Lord's Passion penetrates the unique ceremonies of the Solemn Afternoon Liturgy for Good Friday, during which many practices of the ancient form of the Roman Mass can be witnessed. Mixed in with the austere Roman character of this liturgical rite are some Eastern influences, namely the Veneration of the Cross (derived from a custom practiced in Jerusalem with the True Cross) and the *Improperia* which cites the *Hagios O Theos*, the Greek Rite's form of the *Sanctus*.



Having processed in silence into the sanctuary, the celebrant and deacon immediately make the Solemn Prostration. This profound act of reverence is made instead of genuflecting, to demonstrate the extreme sorrow and the sacred ministers' sense of unworthiness to officiate at the altar due to their faults.



Following the old Roman Mass structure, here a lector from the schola chants the first of the two lessons that proceed the Passion (which replaces the Gospel). The deacon, Fr. Waters, chanted the second lesson, substituting for the subdeacon.



After the lessons, responsories and prayers, three deacons bow before the bishop at his throne and request his permission to chant the Passion related by the Beloved Disciple, who was an actual eyewitness of Christ's crucifixion.



After the Passion is sung, the deacon brings in the veiled cross flanked by two acolytes carrying candles in preparation for its veneration by all in the chapel.

Having given away the cross to two acolytes (while the other two acolytes placed their candles on the edges of the predella), the celebrant removes his shoes, then performs the "creeping to the cross" ritual of genuflecting three times while approaching the cross from afar (in this case, the chancel) to kiss the foot of the Crucified Savior.



With the assistance of the deacon, subdeacon and assistant priest (seminary rector, Fr. Yves LeRoux holding the book), Bishop Fellay implores everyone to "look upon the wood of the cross upon which the Savior of the world hung." In sorrowful fervor, the faithful reply: "Come, let us adore," and kneel in common veneration.



While the faithful venerate the cross, the master of ceremonies removes the violet veil from the altar cross situated on the reredos...





Having changed from black to violet vestments, the deacon, Fr. Waters, unfolds the corporal in preparation for the Communion service.







Where possible, in order to engender the liturgical mood of having lost the Real Presence in the church, the altar of repose should be out of view and closed to the public after midnight on Holy Thursday. Hence, this picture of the deacon removing the Blessed Sacrament from the repository should rarely be seen.

Under the escort of an umbrellino, we see the deacon with the Blessed Sacrament making his way outside from the seminary's second floor Lady Chapel (which served as the altar of repose) to the main chapel, whose front steps can be seen on the right.

PASCHAL VIGIL



Bishop Fellay blesses with holy water the Paschal Fire which set against the black of night, vividly demonstrates how the Christ, the Light of the World, dispels the Devil's darkness. The fire will next be incensed, using coals that were retrieved from the blessed fire.



Surrounded by the smoke of the newly-blessed Paschal Fire, Fr. Pieroni prepares to incise the Paschal Candle with symbols representing Christ, namely the cross, the Greek letters of the Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω) and His five wounds, as well as the year's numerals (2009), signifying His reign in the present and for eternity.

Here the bishop also incises the candle, but surrounded by several more ministers, namely from the left to the right: in the foreground facing the fire, the subdeacon with the processional cross, a master of ceremonies (in surplice), the first assistant deacon (with his head barely showing) the assistant priest (in cope), the bishop (wearing a mitre), another master of ceremonies (holding the Paschal Candle), the second assistant deacon (just his head is visible), the bookbearer and mitre bearer (both in copes), and finally the deacon (in his dalmatic).

This wide angled shot shows the clergy surrounding the fire with the subdeacon outlined by it. The often tricky task of lighting the Paschal Candle from the Paschal Fire is presenting taking place during which the bishop prays: "Light of Christ gloriously resurgent, dispel the darkness of hearts and minds."

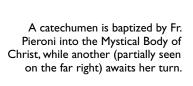




Entering the darkened church, the deacon carrying the Paschal Candle chants three times, each in an ascending tone, "Lumen Christi!" to which all genuflect in veneration and reply, "Deo gratias!"



After the chanting of the Exulstet, four lessons, some responsories and prayers, and the chanting of the first part of the Litany of the Saints, the baptismal water is then blessed. Having already sung the prefacestyle prayer and performed several blessings, Bishop Fellay plunges three successive times the lighted Paschal Candle while praying: "May the power of the Holy Ghost descend in fullness upon this font."





Just consecrated on Holy Thursday, the new holy oils of chrism and of catechumens are successively, then simultaneously, poured into the specially blessed water in the sign of the cross. Now the year's supply of baptismal water has been prepared.





As occurred in many chapels, having made the regenerative waters of baptism, Fr. Novak prepares to baptize several adult catechumens into the Catholic Faith, of which two of the men can be seen attired in garb (e.g., the buttoned vests) that testifies of their Southern heritage.

A newly-baptized adult joyfully receives her white garment which in the ancient Church would be worn by the Christian neophytes from the Easter Vigil until the next Sunday, hence its title Dominica in Albis.



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June: For new priests and for all priests to

obtain to sacerdotal holiness.

July: For governments, that they may

desire to please God and obey His

commandments.

U.S. DISTRICT TREASURE

February 2009

Daily Offering	16,290
Masses	6,289
Sacramental Communions	6,028
Spiritual Communions	11,997
Sacrifices	30,556
Decades of the Rosary	70,078
Visits to the Blessed Sacrament	6,526
15 minutes of silent meditation	6,961
Good Example	22,475
Number returned	649

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CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

These are the dates for the chapels in the United States of America District

BISHOP TISSIER DE MALLERAIS:

St. Mary's, KS	May 21
Post Falls, ID	May 24
Edmonds, WA	May 25
Charlotte, NC	May 27
Denver, CO	May 28
Ridgefield, CT	June 14
Long Island, NY	June 16
Dickinson, TX	June 21
San Antonio, TX	June 22

BISHOP BERNARD FELLAY:

Pittsburgh, PA	June 21
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