

## Every Roman Catholic Priest Can Now Legally Celebrate the Tridentine Mass

by Coralie Graham, Editor

In one of the world's best kept secrets, 9 Cardinals, namely Cardinals Ratzinger, Mayer, Oddi, Stickler, Casaroli, Gantin, Innocenti, Palazzini and Tomko appointed by Pope John Paul II in 1986 to study the legal status of the Traditional Mass commonly called the Tridentine Mass have indeed unanimously agreed.

They answered the following two questions:

1) Did Pope Paul VI authorize the bishops to forbid the celebration of the Traditional Mass?

2) Does the priest have the right to celebrate the Traditional Mass in public and in private without restriction even against the will of his bishop?

Considering that it is this question of the legal status of the Tridentine Mass that is causing a grave crisis in so many souls, parishes and dioceses it is most surprising that no Catholic newspaper (except *The Fatima Crusader*) has unequivocally, clearly and widely published the truth about the matter.

In the article by Father Paul Leonard on page 24 of Issue No. 28, published in June 1989, he reported that:

"The Commission (of 9 Cardinals) unanimously determined that Pope Paul VI never gave the bishops the authority to forbid priests from celebrating the traditional rite of Mass.

"Regarding the second question: The Commission stated that priests cannot be obligated to celebrate the new rite of Mass; the bishops cannot forbid or place restrictions on the celebration of the traditional rite of Mass, whether in public or in private."

### A Vatican Official Confuses the Issue

Msgr. Perl of the "Ecclesia Dei" commission wrote a letter to another journal objecting to our report. It must be noted for the record that: Msgr. Perl acknowledges that the commission of 9 Cardinals did in fact meet over the legality of the Tridentine Mass but nevertheless Msgr. Perl is not a member of the above-named commission and as such is not an authority capable of contradicting our report whose source is from within the commission itself.

It must be carefully noted that:

(1) Msgr. Perl while objecting to our report *never anywhere denies the substance of our report*. Since our report is accurate and our source impeccable, he

could not deny that the Tridentine Mass is legal for any Roman Catholic priest and that the 9 Cardinals gave their unanimous, considered judgment upholding the legality of any priest celebrating the Tridentine Mass.

(2) One small error was made in our report. Our report stated that the commission met in 1988 to study the matter when in fact it was 1986 that the 9 Cardinals met.

(3) *It is obvious that the muzzle on the Catholic press is almost total* since no other journal has clearly and unequivocally carried this report. We regret that a small journal in St. Paul of under 10,000 circulation felt constrained to publish excerpts of Msgr. Perl's letter under the title of "A clarification". His letter only confused some Catholics about the truth of the matter.

(4) Since no other Catholic journals will publish this most important report, we can only ask any of our readers who wish to verify for themselves the truth of the matter to contact directly any one of the 9 Cardinals who were commissioned by the Pope to study the matter. We recommend that you phrase your questions very carefully so as to get an accurate and complete answer.

The Cardinals are under a lot of pressure and unless your questions are properly phrased, you may not get a clear answer as to what the 9 Cardinals agreed to.

We can affirm that this pressure exists because Msgr. Perl who was not a member of the 1986 Commission writes "it is our recommendation" that you and your contributor consult a reputable canon lawyer before offering conclusions and misleading opinions to the public". Who is he to offer such advice when he is the one offering a clearly misleading conclusion to the public by his letter. The substance of our report is from within the Commission itself and we challenge any honest journalists

### NOTE FROM FATHER PAUL LEONARD:

Regarding the decisions made by the Cardinals regarding the two questions in my report in *The Fatima Crusader* Issue No. 28 (on page 24) I stand by fully and I reverified the complete veracity of this report. The meeting did take place in 1986 and not 1988 as mentioned in *Crusader* 28.

If it becomes necessary I will give a more complete response in another issue of *The Fatima Crusader* to Msgr. Perl's ambiguous and misleading reports regarding this subject.

and all honest journalists to find out the truth for themselves by contacting the 9 Cardinals. They can be reached at the following telephone numbers in Rome, Italy:

From North America dial 011-39-6 (and the number listed below) for each Cardinal, namely: Cardinal Mayer 698-4131, Cardinal Ratzinger 698-3292, Cardinal Oddi 321-3329, Cardinal Stickler 698-3312, Cardinal Innocenti 689-6789, Cardinal Palazzini 345-2555, Cardinal Tomko 687-0331.

We regret any inconvenience that this might cause the 9 Cardinals but since this issue has divided parishes, families, dioceses and the Church, the truth must be known.

Msgr. Perl objects to Cardinal Casaroli's reported attempt to suppress the Tridentine Mass. Cardinal Casaroli is doing this despite the fact that he agreed that legally it has never been suppressed, we refer you to a recent HEAVEN'S PEACE PLAN Radio Program (ask for program No. 464) in which Father Paul Leonard reports a conversation in September 1989 with Father Cloutier O.M.V. a member of the "Ecclesia Dei Commission" briefly stated Father Cloutier reported that although the Ecclesia Dei Commission has the authority from



Here are three of the 9 Cardinals who met in December 1986 at the request of Pope John Paul II. The Pope wanted their advice about the status of the Tridentine Mass. All 9 Cardinals unanimously agreed that no bishop could legally forbid any Catholic priest from celebrating the Tridentine Mass. See article starting on page 26 for a fuller explanation. Pictured above from left to right are Cardinals Stickler, Ratzinger and Mayer.

Pope John Paul II to issue "celebrets" or letters of permission to celebrate the Tridentine Mass it is not currently doing so to many of those priests who have petitioned for them because Cardinal Casaroli has asked the Ecclesia Dei Commission to not issue these "celebrets". If someone wants to know if Cardinal Casaroli is indeed obstructing the Tridentine Mass — let him ask Father Cloutier "Have most priests who have asked for a 'celebret' been issued them?" And if the answer is no — ask him why not.