

This was a very important show, Brian and I spoke about the Iran war, the TLM shutdown in Detroit and two very important legal and legislative decisions in the UK and the US. Over on Locals we spoke about a wave of liturgical madness within churches that are supposed to be in [‘full communion.’](#)

On Locals we also just released an early access PDF for our supporters of our latest paper!

[Locals](#)

Catholic Family NEWS

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The Late Crusades

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The Nature of Catholic Sacred Music

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Gem of the Month: Ruby

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"And if you be Christ's, then are you the seed of Abraham, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:29)

Leaked Letter Reveals Bishop of Charlotte Wants to Mandate His Personal Fetishes

By Brian M. McCall

In May the Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte decided to cancel all Traditional Masses in his parishes and relegate about 1,000 faithful who regularly attend to a former Protestant worship space that seats about 300. This assault on faithful Catholics made headlines around the country. Fortunately, and unexplainedly Bishop Martin granted a reprieve to his decision that was to take effect July 1, giving the priest and faithful until October. Bishop Martin's defense to such a persecution was one of "obeying orders." He claimed he had to take this decision due to *Traditionis Custodes*. Yet, his predecessor had requested and received permission to continue the parochial Traditional Masses through October of 2025. Bishop Martin did not publicly claim that he tried to renew that permission and was denied. He simply stated the

prior bishop's permission was coming to an end.

Yet, a draft letter that Rorate Caeli obtained from what it deemed to be a reliable source offers greater insight into the mind of Bishop Martin. The letter which Rorate claims is scheduled to be made public in the future is not about the Traditional Mass but rather the Mass of Paul VI, the *Novus Ordo*. The letter claims to make sweeping changes to the way the New Mass is to be celebrated in the diocese. The Diocese of Charlotte, under Bishop Martin's predecessor, was one of the best examples of a case study of what Benedict XVI hoped to achieve with *Summorum Pontificum*. Although we at CFN have criticized the goals of Benedict XVI, it is clear that the prior Bishop of Charlotte embraced those goals and implemented them. First, the offering of the Traditional Mass was widespread in the diocese. Priests were free to offer it

under the terms of *Summorum Pontificum* and several did so with organic communities developing within parishes which regularly offered the Traditional Mass as an option alongside the *Novus Ordo*. This side by side offering of Old and New clearly had one of the effects that Benedict sought – the mutual enrichment of what he called the "two forms" of the Roman Rite. Yet, since there is nothing really enriching in the New Mass in practice this meant the enrichment of the New Mass as celebrated in practice. Churches were restored to a more traditional architecture. Communion was distributed in many parts of the diocese at altar rails. There was a reduction in the use of lay "extraordinary" ministers of the Eucharist. Priests began reusing traditional looking vestments (Roman style) and adding back the maniple and amice. More Gregorian chant and polyphony could be heard. Some priests offered even the



Bishop Michael Martin has imposed a rule of anti-traditional liturgical practices.

New Mass *ad orientem*. Some priests restored candles and the crucifix to the altar. What effects followed? Beyond more faithful attending the Traditional Mass, the

diocesan seminary program began to recover from the overall malaise. Relative to other diocese young men entered seminary formation

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War in Iran

By Murray Rundus

As of writing this article on June 17, 2025, all signs point to the approaching United States involvement in yet another war in the Middle East. This set of circumstances in many ways seemed inevitable after the massacre on Oct. 7, 2023. Attentive followers of the situation could see that Israel was to use the Oct. 7 acts as a turning point, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said this provided them with a mandate to "reshape the Middle East." The full extent of U.S. involvement is still

unknown, but it should be made clear that the U.S. is already deeply involved. Not only has it provided the Jewish state with hundreds of billions of dollars, it has also engaged in numerous foreign wars on its behalf, is influenced by a massive pro-Israel lobby – most notably AIPAC and the Adelsons – and more recently has taken to assisting in the defense of Israel from ballistic missiles. The United States has tied itself to the Iran conflict, and in refusing to restrain the Israeli government, this conflict and its resolution will be a defining part of the legacy

of the Trump Administration.

The Beginnings of the Attack

The number 613 is an important number in Judaism, as it represents the number of 'mitzvot' or precepts in the Torah. Both the Talmud – the cornerstone text of Rabbinical Judaism – and Maimonides – arguably the most important Jewish scholar of the Middle Ages – assert the importance of this number. It is no coincidence, then, that Operation Rising Lion, which had taken years to prepare, was conducted on June 13, 2025. Iran was first hit with a cyber-attack which took out their radar and any kind of surveillance, and was then hit with drone strikes that were able to assassinate nearly the entire command structure of the Iranian government. This happened all from secret locations of Israeli and Mossad assets established inside of Iran. Iran was left deaf, dumb,



June 13, 2025 marked a massive escalation in the Middle East

and blind and was prone then for a successive wave of airstrikes that managed to strike at many Iranian military assets. These tactics are exactly what have made Israel so successful in these

kind of operations, and is also how they destroyed Hezbollah in Lebanon through an extensive intelligence project of sneaking explosives

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Liturgy

St. Ephrem's feast is today! We need more knowledge of the Syriacs here in the West. Are a few interesting videos/streams about him. I don't necessarily approve of everything stated in these, as these aren't Latin 'trad' sources by any means, but certainly interesting to listen to.

[Dr. Sebastian Brock - Dormition and Assumption of Mary in the Syriac Fathers - YouTube](#)

[The Evergetinos - Vol. I, Hypothesis VIII Part III | Philokalia Ministries](#)

[*St. John the Baptist's feast is coming up as well!*](#)



The Detroit Latin Mass Shutdown

We are seeing a recurring theme with these shutdowns. This issue is not focused only on the Latin Mass but also on the faith and the idea of liturgy itself. This is why we not only see Novus Ordo *ad orientem* also restricted.

The following, though unrelated to *TC*, nevertheless treat Divine Worship and are added to these norms for observance.

- H. Motivated by a unity proper for the Catholic community across the Archdiocese in our divine worship of God, use of the *ad orientem* posture by the priest when using the ordinary form of the Mass is no longer permitted and the Mass must be celebrated on a freestanding altar. If a permanent free standing altar is not already installed in the parish church it shall be installed no later than 180 days from the promulgation of these norms unless a dispensation for extension of time by which to erect a free standing altar is approved by the Archbishop of Detroit or a local Ordinary acting on his behalf.
- I. When celebrating the ordinary form of the Mass or any of the Church's prescribed liturgies, no cleric or lay person may add, omit, or alter anything in the ordinary form of the Mass on his own authority (cf., canon 846), so that *"the truth of the faith as celebrated might appear ever more in all its beauty"* and *"how the reformed liturgy is the witness to an unchanged faith, the expression of a renewed ecclesiology, and the primary source of spirituality for Christian life"* (*Responsa*).

The Traditionalists won the battle of ideas in the Liturgy Wars. The tactics have changed. Rather than this being about the merits of the liturgical reform, this about a blind obedience. "Go to your local parish! Submit to the Bishop!" we hear constantly on the internet. What was supposed to be a reform to emphasize active participation has turned the mass into a legalistic act of obsequence, equivalent to a puppet king paying tribute to the emperor. Growth in the spiritual life, attachment to the traditions of the past that made the Saints holy, all of the richness of the ancient cultural and liturgical texts, none of it matters! This can't be what Catholicism is meant to be.

Resources:

[RORATE CÆLI: The "Mercy" Hammer Comes Down on Traditional Latin Masses in Detroit — 10 Parish Masses to be Closed \[Update: Ad Orientem posture in Novus Ordo also banned\]](#)

Dr. Kwasniewski's "Close the Workshop" from [Angelico Press](#) (See the book review in our paper)

Dr. Kwasniewski's ["Once and Future Roman Rite"](#)

[\(See also my very short coverage of this book that upset many liberal Catholics on Facebook!\)](#)

[The Great Facade](#) by Chris Ferrara

Work of Human Hands by Father Cekada

The Council of Trent on the Liturgy (Can the Reforms be justified in light of this outside of a blind appeal to authority?) [General Council of Trent: Twenty-Second Session - Papal Encyclicals](#)

The War in Iran

My article for the paper covers this issue in depth, as does our video on YouTube and a longer version on [Locals](#)

I recommended some more sources [here](#)

Tucker with Ted Cruz is a **must watch** [Tucker Carlson on X: "Senator Ted Cruz demands regime change in Iran. He's not interested in the details. \(0:00\) Why Does Cruz Want Regime Change in Iran? \(6:28\) Is the US Currently Acting in Its Own Best Interest? \(7:49\) Was Regime Change in Syria Beneficial to the US? \(12:31\) Was the Iraq War a https://t.co/iIdENogQ2T" / X](#)

Culture

Murray-

St. Southwell's Poetry (Especially the Burning Babe)

From my old class notes where I discovered his work

"St. Robert Southwell was an English Jesuit, martyred in 1592 after conducting a 6-year mission in and around London. Following in the footsteps of his great predecessor, St. Edmond

Campion, Southwell not only preached, strengthened the persecuted lay faithful with sacramental

grace, restored the lapsed, converted the apostates, but also encouraged the Catholic men and

women of England by stirring literary work."

This is my favorite from him

The Burning Babe

BY [ROBERT SOUTHWELL SJ.](#)

As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,
Surpris'd I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty Babe all burning bright did in the air appear;
Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears did shed
As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears were fed.
“Alas!” quoth he, “but newly born, in fiery heats I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns,
Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals,
The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defiled souls,
For which, as now on fire I am to work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood.”
With this he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I called unto mind that it was Christmas day.

St. Southwell's poem "The Burning Babe" in many ways encapsulates the spirit of much of his writing, especially regarding the use of contrast and paradox. But I also think that Southwell manages to touch on Catholic doctrine, contrasting with Protestant doctrine, that is demonstrated clearly and yet tastefully. Beginning with the meter, I think there is some Christological significance to it, although we should be cautious to not jump to any conclusions. The poem is composed of what contain lines known as "long fourteeners", lines of iambic heptameter (7 iambic feet) dividing fourteen syllables with a caesura after the 8th

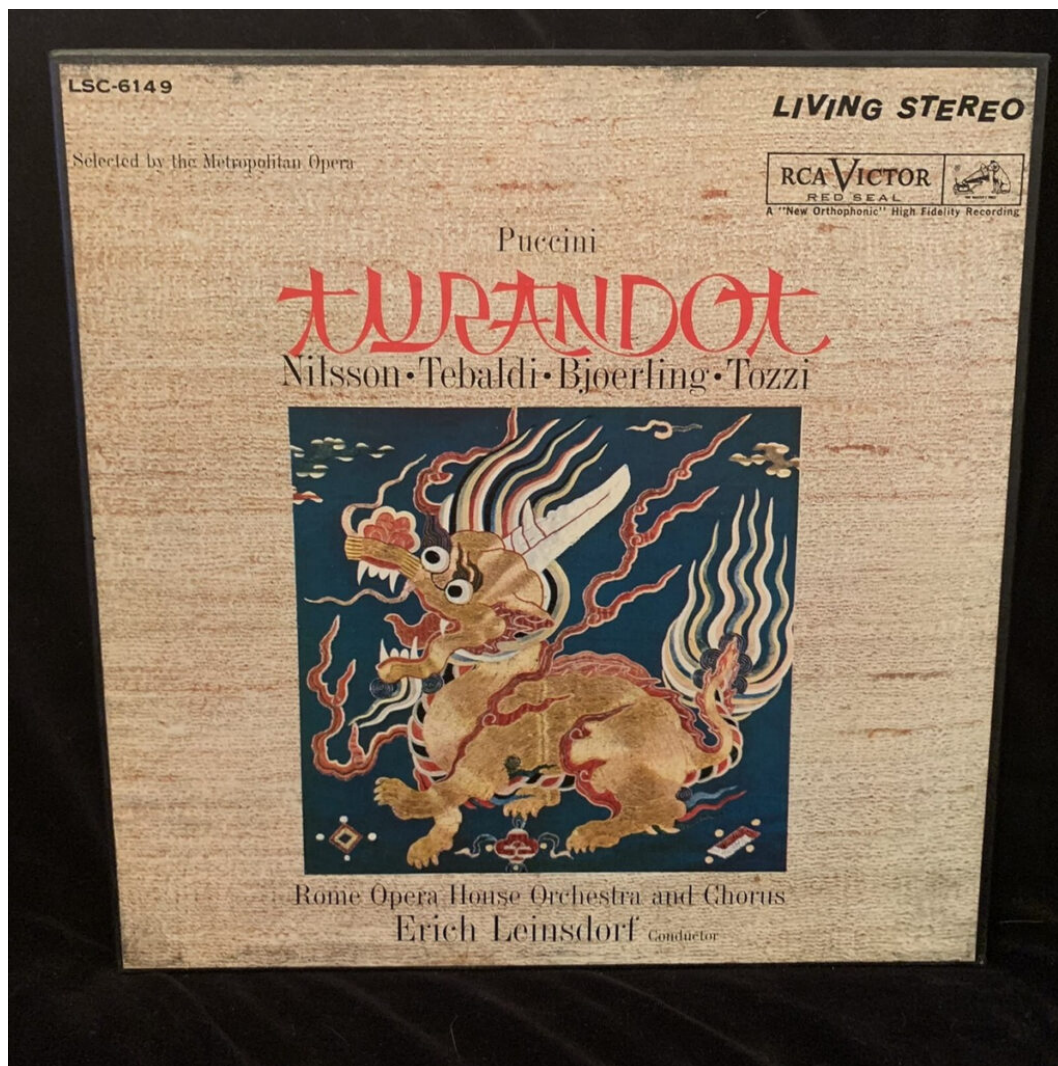
caesura. Each one of the fourteen syllable lines are themselves a part of a couplet. I find it interesting that the seven syllables are themselves a part of this greater couplet, as what immediately comes to mind is the 7 Sacraments stemming from the Incarnation, the Hypostatic Union of Christ's human and divine natures.

Brian-

Turandot

Brian Mentioned this particular performance

However...if you are an audiophile like I am, try to find this on vinyl:



However this recording on Decca is the best all-round performance and recording. I have more to listen to, however, so I might change my mind at a later date!



Two Big Decisions

I would recommend watching Brian's coverage of these two decisions, there is no one better in the Catholic sphere to get legal and judicial coverage from.

I would also recommend his Legal Series on [Locals](#).

[Lawmakers Vote to Decriminalize Abortions for Women in England and Wales - The New York Times](#)

[Supreme Court Upholds Ban on Transgender Care for Minors - The New York Times](#)



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