

STATEMENTS (VERIFIED)

BY MOST REV. DONALD TRAUTMAN, BISHOP OF ERIE

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THE COUNCIL FATHERS' INTENT was pastoral — to have the liturgy of the Church prayed in vernacular or living languages. **There was no mention of any sacred language** or sacred vocabulary.

— Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman (22 October 2009)

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WHEN WE ENCOUNTER those who advocate a “reform of the reform”, we must say, “Do not quench the Spirit”. The Holy Spirit was present at Vatican II and gave us new liturgical direction. When we encounter people who harken back to rigidity in rubrics, we must say, “Do not quench the Spirit”. When inculturation is denied and one liturgical form is forced on all, we must say, “Do not quench the Spirit”. When the Scripture translations in our Lectionary are flawed and not proclaimable, we must say, “Give us the richness of God’s Word: Do not quench the Spirit”. The Holy Spirit prompted the renewal and reform of the Liturgy. Now, more than ever, we must say, “Do not quench the Spirit”...

When such Roman liturgical drafts call us to return to a liturgical mentality prior to Vatican II, we need to say to one another: Keep up your courage. **When liturgical expertise is not respected**, we must say to one another: Keep up your courage. When fundamental principles of liturgical renewal are reversed, we must remind one another: Keep up your courage. When liturgical offices are closed and liturgical budgets are slashed, we must say to one another: Keep up your courage. When we see liturgical renewal still wanting in many parishes and when we feel the pain of the **clerical sex abuse scandal and its impact on worshipping assemblies** **????!!!!** and presiders, let us give hope to one another.

— Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman (22 October 2009)

[*Note: The phrase “reform of the reform” was coined by Cardinal Ratzinger.*]

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THE PEOPLE WHO ARE FIGHTING to go back to Latin, for example, had a wonderful experience when Mass was in that language. They’re saying they met the Lord that way, and they’re trying to keep that form, not understanding that the form and language of the liturgy is never an absolute. Only God is absolute, and there are different ways we express our love and our prayer.

— Most Rev. Donald W. Trautman (October 2005)