

# Bishop OKs Latin Mass; 1st In N.C. Since 1970

Associated Press

A Catholic bishop has sanctioned a traditional Latin worship service in North Carolina for the first time since use of the English-language mass began in 1970, a priest said Tuesday.

The "tridentine" mass, used for years before the Vatican II Council of 1962-65, will be celebrated Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. in St. Leo's Church in Winston-Salem, said the Rev. Joseph Kerin of the Charlotte diocese.

The onetime, experimental return to the Latin-language rite was approved by Bishop John Donoghue in response to a request from parishioners who prefer the older version, Kerin said in a telephone interview.

"We want to provide to our people any opportunity to worship that is approved by (Pope John Paul II), but it must be totally in accord with the instructions of the Holy Father," Kerin said.

Catholics who want to celebrate the Latin mass in recent years have organized and sought permission from church authorities. In North Carolina, a movement has been under way for several months.

John Paul issued instructions for trial use of the Latin mass on Oct. 15, telling bishops they could allow the services for people who petition for them. The pope ordered that bishops make sure people requesting the Latin masses were not disavowing the changes made in 1970 under Pope Paul VI.

Those revisions, including the celebration of mass in native languages, were designed to encourage involvement by worshipers who don't understand Latin, Kerin said.

After the pope's instructions, Donoghue said further requests for Latin masses within the Charlotte diocese would be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the number of people wanting them.

Donoghue also said the old and new rites could not be mixed and liturgical changes adopted in 1970 must be honored.

Marty Kupris, leader of a Charlotte-based organization seeking a permanent return to Latin masses for those preferring them, said he was grateful for Donoghue's decision.

"We plan to continue petition-

ing one church per week," he said, adding that 622 signatures were collected on a petition presented to St. Leo's Church.

The Rev. Anthony Kovacic, pastor of St. Leo's Church in Winston-Salem, said he didn't think all 622 persons who signed the petition preferred the Latin mass.