

Some Catholics refuse to give up Latin Mass

KENNER, (AP) — The Second Vatican Council abandoned the Latin Tridentine Mass in the early 1960s, but a group of Catholics in this suburban New Orleans city is clinging to the old Mass, despite objections from church leaders.

Carol Bellow and Theresa Hotard are two of the members of the Our Lady of Grace Roman Catholic Chapel. They have refused to give up the Mass they celebrated more than 20 years ago.

The Mass is the one established in 1547 by the Council of Trent and abandoned after Vatican II.

Although they are treated as rebels, they say they are being true to their religion and to the real spirit of the church. Those who have abandoned the Tridentine Mass are the rebels, they insist.

But others in the New Orleans Archdiocese say the Kenner traditionalists are merely holdouts — people who, like their counterparts through the ages, balk at the thought of minor changes in the liturgy.

Archbishop Philip Hannan has called the Kenner Latin Masses illegal and has asked that they stop.

Still, the Kenner group remains convinced that the Tridentine Mass is the only proper one.

"The traditional Mass is a reverent service that gives honor and glory to God," Mrs. Hotard said in an interview. "The modern Mass gives honor and glory to man. In my book, it isn't Catholic."

The change from Latin to English is not their major complaint, the women said. The changes that irk them, they said, are those that make the Mass less reverent and solemn.

They object particularly to modern folk music, dancing, and the new liturgy, which they find more like a

Protestant service than the Tridentine Catholic one.

"The more we would go the more aggravated we would get," Mrs. Hotard said.

Finally, about 10 years ago, the Bellows and like-minded friends met over their kitchen table and decided to find a priest who would help them celebrate the Tridentine Mass.

They found the Rev. Hector Bolduc in Texas. He came to Kenner and helped them establish the group that began worshipping in a gymnasium, moved to a rented hotel room and now has its own church.

Bolduc says the group has grown to 200 people of all ages. He considers this an indication that most Catholics want to return to the Tridentine Mass.

But archdiocesan officials say Bolduc and his followers don't really understand the changes made after Vatican II, and that only the style of the Mass has changed, not its substance.

The Rev. Ellis DePriest, director of the Archdiocese Office of Worship, said the Second Vatican Council not only modernized the Mass by allowing it to be said in English, but also moved it closer to the original form of the Mass.

"It is much more in the ancient tradition of the fathers of the church," he said, explaining that in ancient times the Mass was said in Greek, the spoken language of the day.

The modern Mass is designed to allow more participation, he said.

For example, the priest now faces the congregation, rather than keeping his back to them. Scripture readings are varied to accommodate a more literate and theologically astute Catholic population, he said.

"The Tridentine Mass," DePriest said, "is simply not an expression of the faith of the Catholic church today."

3 men booked in N.O. murder

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Three men have been booked in connection with the

Wright, 19, a dormitory resident at the

#46

1974

11/6/983

- Diary entry