Focus on Religious Freedom
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Traditional Latin Mass is Celebrated in the U.S. Capitol
One Year after the Leak of the FBI Memo Linking Traditional Catholics to Domestic Terrorists

On Jan. 23, 2024 the Traditional Latin Mass was celebrated inside the Capitol of the United States in response to an invitation from House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Judiciary Committee Chairman, Jim Jordan, and Congressman Dan Meuser to coincide with the one year anniversary of the leaking of the contested memo from multiple FBI offices claiming that extremists and terrorist groups were connected with traditional Catholic communities.

The Arlington Latin Mass society coordinated the event and reported that invitations to the Mass were limited in deference to Traditionis Custodis. About 60 people were in attendance including some Congressional staffers, but no members of Congress were present as they were out of town on recess.

After the controversial memo was made public, the FBI stated the memo would be withdrawn as it did not meet FBI standards. However, a Jan. 31, 2024 letter from 15 GOP Senators to FBI Director, Christopher Wray, asked for intact records from the FBI regarding the memo, since the records were allegedly permanently deleted after the memo became public. The Senators want to clear up differences between Director Wray's testimony and new information on the surveillance of Catholics.

This is the memo that Cardinal Dolan, speaking in Feb., 2023 as then Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Religious Freedom found to be 'troubling and offensive.' The Jan, 16, 2024 USCCB's Annual Report on the State of Religious Liberty in the U.S. also pointed out concerns regarding this troubling action by the FBI.

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