Preamble:  
  
Hello and welcome to Laudate Dominum!  
  
Laudate Dominum is a Traditional Catholic forum committed to preserving and defending Traditional Catholicism.  We consider this forum to be a refuge from the anti-traditionalist attitude sometimes evident in the Church hierarchy and even on many discussion forums which call themselves Catholic.

Any Catholic is welcome here within the rules and guidelines. Non-Catholics are also permitted to register, read, and post, as long as they, too, observe the rules and guidelines.   
  
Please read the following rules and guidelines before joining:

Registration:  
1) Registration is free and is limited to one account.

2) Do not pretend to be another living person.  
3) If clergy register for this forum, please email the administrator at laudate.dominum.forum@gmail.com to confirm your identity. If you wish, we will be sure to mark you as such on your profile.     
4) VPNs, IP maskers, proxies, etc. are not permitted unless cleared with the forum owner.  PM her for more information, or with any questions/concerns you might have.  
  
Conduct:  
1) All members must be civil to fellow posters, *including within private messaging*. Do not engage in covert personal battles by opening threads with the transparent purpose to mock and discredit a particular poster, while overtly attacking that member by backbiting within the private messaging system. Such essentially dishonest behavior discourages participation overall because it changes the tone of a forum.

Posters who add vulgarities to such personally directed campaigns are subject to immediate, permanent ban. Contempt for a position is not the same thing as contempt for a person. If you actually know the Faith, you will know the difference without need for explanation. We do not always exercise proper internal control over our reactions, but we can surely restrain ourselves in the expression of those reactions.

2) Vulgarities are forbidden on this forum.  Please exercise prudence. If you want a forum which does not demand any self-control, there are plenty out there which are neither moderate nor moderated. IOW, behave like a gentleman or a lady, as appropriate, or go where there are no boundaries.

3) No pornography or blasphemy is allowed. You will be banned immediately for failing to adhere to this rule. It’s apparent that many Catholics do not know the definition of blasphemy, which is speaking sacrilegiously or offensively about God (and other sacred things/persons, such as The Blessed Mother). Attributing to God or to Our Lady actions and intentions which contradict dogmas about either are forms of blasphemy, such as claiming that God would promote immorality, enjoys watching people suffer, or that Our Mother ever had designs to dismantle the papacy against her Son’s wishes are examples of blasphemous comments.

4) Appropriating this forum for commercial purposes is forbidden, such as to promote one’s own professional services, advertise one’s own products for sale, etc. You may, however, post in The Marketplace items wanted, for sale, or to be traded, such as books, electronics, Catholic media, etc.

5) Posting heresy or entertaining the possibility of heresy with regard to the published dogmas of the Faith is strictly disallowed and subject to bans. Of course you may ask for clarification on dogmas and heresies.

6) The posting of images:

Vulgar images, whether pictures of text or pictures of a figure, are forbidden. **Do not use images to substitute for verbal communication**. If you have something to say, be mature enough to put it into words and charitable enough not to waste other people’s time while they figure out some hidden meaning in an ambiguous image.

7) Private messages will not be invaded unless the privilege is abused and that abuse is reported to the moderators. We will first determine if it is in fact an abuse, and only then will we take action. We greatly prefer to protect privacy for all members. Abuse includes:

Gathering allies, via backbiting, to engage in personal vendettas on the forum beyond opposition to ideas/positions; conspiring to sabotage the traditionalist orientation of this forum; proselytizing members away from Tradition or away from Catholicism itself.

8) Overall, we discourage using our forum to disparage or compare other forums negatively with ours. A casual remark, or a summary of the history of another forum, will be allowed within limits, but in general, we do not regard Catholic discussion forums, whatever their orientation, as zero sum games. If you have decided to leave another forum for ours, respect the remaining posters on that previous forum; they may in fact become your friends here! It would be at cross-purposes to this forum to “do battle.” The entire Traditionalist movement is already battled-besieged, certainly without and often within, including by the Church’s hierarchy.

9) In that respect, "Trad-bashing" is strictly forbidden **and will be enforced**. By that is meant generalizing about Catholics who profess and practice the Sacred Tradition of the Church – characterizing them as a group as being “rigid,” “narrow,” “close-minded,” “lacking charity,” etc. While raising concerns or making comments about various currents in the Traditional Catholic community is allowed, unfair accusations about individuals or groups who are sincerely trying to practice the Faith is forbidden. Likewise, insinuating that certain trads or groups of trads are “not really Catholic” will not be tolerated. You may express regret about what you view as a misguided direction or misguided leadership within a particular group, but you may not refer to them as “schismatic” unless they themselves declare that they have left the Church or the Church declares them outside. There is a great variety and a great deal of nuance/complexity within the Traditionalist movement, a movement which continues to grow in interest and numbers. A true follower of Catholic Tradition will support the continued growth of the restoration to the authentic Faith and will not repeatedly bash every new clerical initiative as being somehow a threat to Catholicism.

Because we support the Restoration as a whole, we are favorable to all organized traditionalist groups such as the SSPX, the ICKSP (ICRSS), the FSSP, the SSPV, and newer groups as they incorporate. Naturally, one does not need to be affiliated with a named group in order to post here. Keep in mind that members of traditional apostolates often walk a fine line between the mission of their apostolate and an ambivalent conciliar church. We are committed to protecting traditionalist priests from risk and persecution; if such a man has disclosed something to you in confidence, you are expected to honor his wishes and may not repeat those confidential remarks in such a way as to identify him and/or his location.

10) Do not reveal identities of other members without their permission.

11) Private, personal information about any member which may be deemed as sensitive in nature by the moderating staff is to remain private unless it is willfully offered by the relevant party or parties in a thread. That includes disclosure of real names not revealed publicly by a member.

12) Do not abuse the purpose of the forum. By abuse is meant using the forum and its members to avoid our explicit and implicit duties: developing a trusting relationship with God through prayer, attending to one’s physical and psychological health, putting responsible effort into one’s marriage, etc. If LD becomes your substitute for a healthy Catholic life, you will be gently redirected to the proper sources for that healthy life. Feel free to ask questions, offer resources to each other, and solicit prayers regarding your personal needs, but do not demand that forum members provide remote solutions to your spiritual problems and justification for your crosses.

13) Stalking (otherwise known as cyber-stalking) is also forbidden. By that is meant following your personal opponents around our forum with the observable purpose of defeating them at every opportunity. Do not use our forum to indulge your own vindictiveness by joining every thread of theirs for the purpose of nourishing your enmity with them.  
  
Posting:  
1) Do not troll the forum. Trolling is defined as "submitting a deliberately provocative posting to an online message board with the aim of inciting an angry response." This forum will regard those who post with the evident purpose of sabotaging Tradition as nothing more than trolls in Catholic clothing.

2) Do not purposely derail threads. For example, if, in Family Life, an OP asks for advice about a family matter, and you have the same/similar problem, allow the discussion to center on the OP’s needs. Supporting the OP with “I have a similar problem, so I’ll be interested to read what other posters say about yours” is obviously an appropriate reply. Alternatively, opening your own thread in FL, stating similarities and differences from the other OP’s situation, is also appropriate, but do not presume that readers would be more interested in your problem, and would be content to let you dominate the original thread.

3) If you wish to discuss a topic that has been inactive for 120 days or more, start a new thread. If you wish, link/refer to the previous thread on the same topic.

4) Use the proper subforum. Each has its purpose.

5) Link your sources when posting news articles.  Conversely, do not link a news story without comment. What aspect of it do you want discussed? The best way to encourage discussion is to provide something for people to discuss.  
  
The Papal Seat and its subforum [called by that name]

Until proclaimed otherwise, this forum assumes Pope Francis to be the Supreme Pontiff, given that we have no authority to declare him not Pope. Nevertheless, we also know that Traditional Catholics hold a variety of opinions regarding Pope Francis, any one of which may be true. Those opinions, indicative of the extent and depth of The Crisis in the Church, include at least these three: sedeplenism, sedevacantism, and sedeprivationism. The policy of the forum is to respect all of those positions and allow discussion of them in the subforum, The Papal Seat. Quoting the late Abp. Marcel Lefebvre, "I do not say that the pope is not the pope... But I do not say that you cannot say the pope is not the pope."

Non-Catholics:

Error has no rights. Thus, although *non*-Catholic viewpoints may be posted here, *anti*-Catholic viewpoints may not. Non-Catholics are welcome to ask respectful questions and learn but not to disparage or mock. The forum is expressly for Traditionally believing Catholics, who deserve a place to support each other without editing from non-believers.

Atheists will be allowed to post for the purpose of asking questions and learning, but not to use our forum as a platform to promote Atheism.  
  
The Forum Staff:

1) The moderators must be respected. When moderating they will use an italicized dark blue font. Arguing with their decisions will not be tolerated.  Opening threads with the covert purpose of questioning moderator decisions, current and past, is also not allowed. If you do not like the direction of the forum, you have the option of private messaging the staff with your concern. You may not use the discussion area as a platform to promulgate your preference for a different kind of forum. Free speech is a wonderful thing and extends to a free press, including online. Open your own forum already instead of trying to control or redirect this one. Many Catholics have done just that.

2) If you have a concern with a moderator decision, private message a member of the staff to address your concern. You are not permitted to discuss publicly bans issued to posters, past and present, including to discuss the legitimacy or wisdom of any ban, to compare the quality of one poster with another (banned or not). Such comparisons are inherently uncharitable and unjust, not to mention highly subjective.

User Identities:

Other posters have a right to know where you stand, and thus you should identify your religion within a commonly recognized identifier. Allowable identifiers for Catholics include:

Catholic

Roman Catholic

Catholic, Roman Rite

Catholic, Eastern Rite

Traditional Catholic

Etc.

For Orthodox: just Orthodox, or Greek Orthodox, etc.

Please do not call yourself a member of a church of one, such as your own invented religion or belief system. You may not proselytize on behalf of Skepticism or Solipsism (other belief systems) on this forum. Know also that Atheism is in fact a set of beliefs with recognizable dogmas.

If you identify yourself as a member of The One True Religion in an effort to be coy, we will consider you to be a Traditional Catholic and will assume you know the faith well enough to conduct yourself accordingly.