



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

DECREE IMPLEMENTING THE *MOTU PROPRIO*, *TRADITIONIS CUSTODES*, IN THE DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Saginaw

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Supreme Pontiff Francis has issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes* (TC) issued on July 16, 2021, on the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, effective immediately upon publication in *L'Osservatore Romano*;

Whereas, according to this Apostolic Letter and the Letter to Bishops accompanying it, Pope Francis was motivated out of a concern for the unity of the Church, and thus he intends to establish liturgical unity in the Roman Rite, by means of the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite, following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (TC. Art.1);

Whereas, according to this Apostolic Letter it is the exclusive competence of the diocesan bishop “to authorize the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* in his diocese according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See” (TC. Art.2);

Whereas, the “bishop of the diocese in which until now there exists one or more groups that celebrate according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, it is to determine that these groups do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs” (TC. Art. 3, §1);

Whereas, the diocesan bishop “is to designate one or more locations where the faithful adherents of these groups may gather for the Eucharistic celebration, not however in the parochial churches [without permission] and without the erection of new personal parishes” (TC. Art. 3, § 2);

Whereas, the diocesan bishop is to appoint a priest as his delegate, who is entrusted with these celebrations and with the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful. This priest should be suited for this responsibility, having demonstrated skills in the use of the *Missale*

Romanum antecedent to the reform of 1970, demonstrated knowledge of the Latin language sufficient for a thorough comprehension of the rubrics and liturgical texts, and animated by a lively pastoral charity and by a sense of ecclesial communion. This priest should have at heart not only the correct celebration of the liturgy, but also the pastoral and spiritual care of the faithful (Art. 3§4);

Whereas, the diocesan bishop is to take care not to authorize the establishment of new groups (TC. Art. 3 § 6);

Whereas, according to canon 87, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, “A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges, that dispensation will contribute to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church”;

Whereas, I, The Most. Rev. Robert D. Gruss, Bishop of Saginaw, requested from the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments dispensation from art. 3 § 2 of the *Motu proprio Traditionis custodes* so that Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 may continue to be celebrated in Holy Family Parish Church in Saginaw, Michigan. This dispensation has been granted for a limited period of time and with restrictions.

Therefore, I, The Most. Rev. Robert D. Gruss, Bishop of Saginaw, do hereby

DECREE

The following:

1. Since it will contribute to the spiritual good of the faithful to the extent that it may be needed, a dispensation is granted from Art. 3, § 2 of *Traditionis Custodes* authorizing the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* at **Holy Family Parish in Saginaw**, this dispensation is granted until June 13, 2025. “If, after this period of time, you wish to renew the permission then you will need to send us a *relatio* along with your request. This *Relatio* should contain details of the number of participants at these Masses and it should also recount the steps which have been taken to lead the faithful who are attached to the antecedent liturgy towards the celebration of the liturgy according to the liturgical books reformed by decree of the Second Vatican Council, and which form the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite. The Holy Father’s Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi* on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God should prove to be of great assistance in this task” (Dicastery for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments).
 - i. It has been determined that such a celebration should not be included in the parish Mass schedule, since it is attended only by the faithful who are members of such group;
 - ii. It has been determined that it should not be held at the same time as the pastoral activities of the parish community and if another venue becomes available, this permission will be withdrawn. Thus, the Pastor concerned should refrain from

- promoting or advertising the antecedent liturgy by means of the weekly bulletin or on the parish website;
- iii. It has been determined that the Scripture readings are to be proclaimed in the vernacular language, using the official translation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Practices and arrangements of liturgical space and altar, which merge elements of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* into the *Novus Ordo* Masses, are not permitted;
 - iv. It has been determined that the sacrament of Baptism is not allowed to be celebrated using the *Rituale Romanum (editio typica 1952)* for the reasons as outlined in the *Responsa ad dubia* and the negative response received from the Holy See. However, the *Rituale Romanum, Ordo baptismi parvulorum editio typica altera (1973)* may be celebrated.
 - v. It has been determined that the sacrament of Marriage is not allowed to be celebrated using the *Rituale Romanum (editio typica 1952)*, but may be celebrated using the *Rituale Romanum (editio typica 1991)*.
 - vi. There is no intention in these provisions to marginalise the faithful who are rooted in the previous form of celebration; rather they are only meant to remind them that this is a concession to provide for their good (in view of the common use of the one *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite) and not an opportunity to promote the previous rite.
2. It has been determined that no other locations are authorized in which Mass may be celebrated using the 1962 *Missale Romanum* other than the location mentioned above.

I hereby,

DELEGATE

1. In Accordance with *Traditionis Custodes*, (TC.Art. 3,§4). I hereby appoint Rev. Adam Maher, to be my delegate for matters pertaining to liturgical celebrations according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* and assist the appointed priests to continue celebrating the Mass using the *Missale Romanum* of 1962.
2. The priests appointed are entrusted with these celebrations, and it has been determined that the priests do not deny the validity and legitimacy of the liturgical reform as dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs (TC. Art.3, §1).
3. That visiting priests from outside the diocese are not authorized either to begin or to continue enjoying the faculty to use the *Missale Romanum* 1962 in the Diocese of Saginaw.
4. That priests who do not request and receive the faculties by the diocesan bishop are not authorized to celebrate the Eucharist using the *Missale Romanum* 1962 in the Diocese of Saginaw, whether publicly or privately, and may not do so until the permission is granted.

5. It has been determined that priests ordained after July 16, 2021, who wish to celebrate Mass using the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 must make a request in writing to the diocesan bishop outlining the reasons for his desire to celebrate Mass in the *Usus Antiquior* of the Roman Rite.
- i. Such priests must first be determined to be suitable (TC. Art. 3);
 - ii. It has been determined that in accordance with the requirements of *Traditionis Custodes*, the Apostolic See will be consulted before granting of such requests; and

I hereby,

ESTABLISH

That the celebration of a Mass using the 1962 *Missale Romanum* is restricted to Sundays at the Holy Family Parish following its current respective schedule and is not to be celebrated on weekday Masses, Christmas Eve/ Day (unless it falls on a Sunday), the Easter Triduum, or Pentecost (Art. 3§3).

Everything I have decreed must be observed in all its parts. Anything else to the contrary notwithstanding, even if worthy of particular mention, may not be carried out following the promulgation of this decree, I establish that it be promulgated by way of publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw.


The provisions of this decree must become effective immediately upon publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw. These stipulations are subject to further modifications and amendments as deemed necessary by the Roman Pontiff.

Given on this 12th day of September in the year of Our Lord 2023, at the Chancery of the Diocese of Saginaw.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+ Robert D. Gruss

†Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss
Bishop of Saginaw


Sister Mary Judith O'Brien, R.S.M.
Chancellor/ Ecclesiastical Notary