



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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October 12, 2021

Dear Brother Priests,

I write to provide you with an update on the pastoral and spiritual care of the faithful in this local Church, in regard to eucharistic celebrations using the Roman Missal promulgated by Saint John XXIII in 1962. In accord with the provisions of the recent *Motu proprio* of Pope Francis, *Traditionis custodes (TC)*, having consulted with my advisers and seeking to strengthen the ecclesial communion in our Diocese, I direct the following steps as your Bishop.

1. The unique expression of the sacred liturgy is found in the liturgical books promulgated by Saint Paul VI and Saint John Paul II (*TC*, art. 1). With the primary and normative celebration of the Mass being that reformed by the Second Vatican Council, use of the Roman Missal of Saint John Paul II, promulgated in English in 2011, is to take priority in the schedule of Sunday Masses, to extend pastoral care to the great number of English and Spanish speaking faithful in this local Church. It is my expectation that priests serving all parishes, missions, stations and chapels of ease will celebrate Mass using this Missal every Sunday and on weekdays, as the principal celebration(s) of the day.
2. Given the special character of pilgrimage to both Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh and the Basilica Shrine of Saint Mary in Wilmington, in accord with Canons 837, 1214, 1230 and 1234, the existing once monthly Sunday Masses celebrated in these sacred places, using the Roman Missal of 1962 may continue, further clarifications on *Traditionis custodes*, withstanding.
3. The existing Masses celebrated using the Roman Missal of 1962 at the listed parishes may also continue, with noted prescriptions, further clarifications on *Traditionis custodes*, withstanding.
 - Sundays at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rocky Mount, celebrated no earlier than 1:00 pm.
 - Sundays at Sacred Heart in Dunn, celebrated no earlier than 1:00 pm.
 - Wednesday Masses at Saint Catherine of Siena in Wake Forest, celebrated once monthly.
4. The readings from sacred scripture for Mass are prescribed within the Roman Missal of 1962. I direct, though, that the translation of these prescribed scriptures be those from the most recent approved translation for liturgical use found in the Revised Roman Lectionary (1998/2002) or in the New American Bible, Revised Edition (2011).
5. Only priests who have received faculties from me are to celebrate Mass using the Roman Missal of 1962, as the faculty to do so is a personal privilege and not one proper to a parish or faith community nor any other group of the faithful. Additionally, these faculties are restricted to be exercised within the Diocese of Raleigh and in the place(s) prescribed.
6. To provide adequate time for scheduling, but also to encourage opportunities for liturgical catechesis, each of the above prescriptions are to be effective January 1, 2022.

I express my renewed gratitude to Father Paul Parkerson for his counsel, dedicated spiritual care of the faithful and his priestly generosity in continuing to serve as my delegate in these matters.

It is my hope that this direction may assist us as a Diocesan family to continue to grow in holiness, through a renewed relationship with God through our prayer and integrity of life, but also by fostering further formation throughout our Diocese on the beauty, theology and praxis of the sacred liturgy, where we encounter Our Lord most intimately. May Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of our Diocese, watch over and guide us, always and in communion with Her Son and His Church.

In Christ,



† Luis Rafael Zarama, J.C.L.
Bishop of Raleigh