



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

5825 SHELBY OAKS DRIVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38134 901-373-1200

30 July 2021

To the priests, deacons and lay-faithful of the Diocese of Memphis, brothers and sisters all, in Christ Jesus the Lord:

Two weeks ago, on the 16th of July, our Holy Father issued an Apostolic Letter, *Traditionis custodes*. In this Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis offered new directions for the present day use of the Roman Missal promulgated in 1962, issued a few years prior to the reforms called for by the body of Bishops gathered in the Ecumenical Council, Vatican II (1962-1965).

Most of the clergy and lay faithful of west Tennessee, gathering together in faith for holy Mass, pray as a parish community using the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Saint John Paul II. When I am with you at your parish, to celebrate holy Mass for you and with you, it is with the prayers and liturgical structure seen in this Roman Missal, whether the Mass is celebrated in English or Spanish or Vietnamese or any other language. And, when I am with you to offer our young teens the Sacrament of Confirmation, the liturgical texts used for the Sacrament are those promulgated after the blessing of the reforms of Vatican II.

But for a good many years and up until the present day, a small portion of the faithful of our Diocese and a few of our priests have found solace in praying holy Mass using the liturgical structure and prayers of the Missal of 1962, a Missal for the Catholic Church since its initial promulgation after the Council of Trent (1545-1563). Today, in two of our parishes, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and Saint Theresa Little Flower Catholic Church, a portion of the parishioners at each parish attend holy Mass throughout the week, and take part in the Mass, using the prayers from the 1962 Missal.

In his *motu proprio Traditionis custodes*, Pope Francis has established that the liturgical books promulgated by Saints Paul VI and John Paul II, in conformity with the decrees of Vatican II, are the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite (law of what is prayed). Additionally, in his Letter to the Bishops of the Church, Pope Francis speaks of a return to a unitary form of celebration, of a unity he intends to re-establish throughout the Church of the Roman Rite.

Still, in reading over and praying with this new Apostolic Letter and in trying to understand the Holy Father's fraternal Letter to the Episcopate, my mind and heart are given to the love I have for all the clergy and faithful of west Tennessee. In my thirty-two years of service as priest and bishop, I have followed the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican II. Even so, I have recognized the fruitfulness of prayer in that small portion of the faithful of our Diocesan family that are drawn to holy Mass as celebrated in the use of the 1962 Roman Missal.

And so, with all this in mind, and serving as the moderator, promotor and guardian of the whole liturgical life of our Diocese, I offer preliminary norms and guidelines for use of the Roman Missal of 1962, for the clergy and faithful in the Diocese of Memphis. As new directives of the Holy See are offered in support of the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter, I will offer additional instruction. In the joy that the Spirit brings to us, I am yours, in the light and love of the Risen Lord,

+ 
Most Reverend David P. Talley



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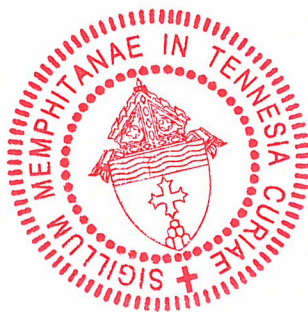
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Considering the Apostolic Letter *Traditionis custodes* of the Supreme Pontiff, given *motu proprio* on 16 July 2021 and entering force immediately, and in obedience to the Holy Father, and in light of the role ascribed to the diocesan bishop by Article 2 of the same Apostolic Letter, I hereby establish the following norms and guidelines to be observed in the Diocese of Memphis.

1. Father Yoelvis Gonzalez, Pastor of the parishes of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and Saint Theresa Little Flower Catholic Church, celebrates holy Mass for his parishioners, using both the Roman Missal of Pope Saint John Paul II and the *Missale Romanum* of Pope Saint John XXII (1962 Missal). I appoint Father Gonzalez as my delegate, mentioned in Article 3.4 of the *motu proprio*. He will continue to celebrate holy Mass for the two communities, using both the current Roman Missal and the *Missale Romanum* of 1962.
2. For the good of the faithful, a dispensation is granted from Art.3.2 of *Traditionis custodes*, authorizing the use of the *Missale Romanum* (1962) at both Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and Saint Theresa Little Flower Catholic Church.
3. Following the *motu proprio* of the Supreme Pontiff (Art.3.6), the parishes of Blessed Sacrament and Saint Theresa Little Flower are the only parishes authorized for public celebration of the holy Mass using the *Missale Romanum* (1962).
4. For Priests ordained before 16 July 2021 who desire authorization to celebrate holy Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962), each priest should request authorization from me.

Given in Memphis, Tennessee, this 30th day of July 2021,

Most Reverend David P. Talley
Bishop of Memphis



Very Reverend James Clark
Judicial Vicar, Chancellor