



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



DECREE IMPLEMENTING
THE MOTO PROPRIO,
TRADITIONIS CUSTODES,
IN THE DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH

Whereas the Supreme Pontiff Francis has issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* On the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970, *Traditionis Custodes*, effective immediately upon promulgation in *L'Osservatore Romano*;

Whereas according to this Apostolic Letter it is the exclusive competence of the diocesan bishop "to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See" (Art. 2);

Whereas the "bishop of the diocese in which until now there exist one or more groups that celebrate according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970 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" (Art. 3, § 1);

Whereas the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter was canonically established by Pope Saint John Paul II on October 18, 1988, as a Society of Apostolic Life for the pastoral and spiritual care of Catholics attached to the celebration of the liturgical rites according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970;

Whereas Saint Benedict Parish in Fort Worth, Texas was canonically established as a personal parish effective August 1, 2015, for those Catholic Faithful residing within the boundaries of the Diocese of Fort Worth who desire to worship regularly according to the Roman Missal of Pope Saint John XXIII of 1962 as registered and domiciled parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Worth; the pastoral care of which is provided by priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter;

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 and without the erection of new personal parishes)" (Art. 3, § 2);

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Whereas the diocesan bishop is "to proceed suitably to verify that the parishes canonically erected for the benefit of these faithful are effective for their spiritual growth, and to determine whether or not to retain them" (Art. 3, § 5);

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

Whereas according to canon 87, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, "A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that a 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;" and

Whereas being mindful of our solemn responsibility to work for the salvation of souls, and having considered *Traditionis Custodes* and the pastoral and spiritual needs of the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth, and after having heard the presbyteral council, the College of Consultors, and the deans of the Diocese of Fort Worth, therefore, I, the Most Reverend Michael Fors Olson, by the Grace of God and favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Fort Worth, do hereby decree the following:

1. It has been determined that the priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter, do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform as dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs, and therefore may continue to use the 1962 Roman Missal (Art. 3, § 1).

2. It has been determined that Saint Benedict Parish in Fort Worth, Texas canonically erected for the benefit of these faithful, is effective for the spiritual growth of the faithful and is therefore retained (Art. 3, § 5).

3. 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 Roman Missal at the parish church, Saint Benedict Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Eucharistic celebrations are permitted at this location using the Roman Missal promulgated by Saint John XXIII in 1962 on any or all days of the year. In these celebrations the readings are proclaimed in the vernacular language, using translations of the Sacred Scripture approved for liturgical use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Art. 3, § 3).

3. The priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter are entrusted with these celebrations and with the pastoral care of the faithful who reside within the territory of the Diocese of Fort Worth attend the Mass at Saint Benedict Church in Fort Worth, Texas (Art. 3, § 4).

4. Priests ordained prior to July 16, 2021, and who desire for sound spiritual and pastoral reasons to celebrate Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 in the Diocese of Fort Worth, including priests already celebrating Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962, including privately, are required to seek permission and faculties of the diocesan bishop, in whose judgment they must

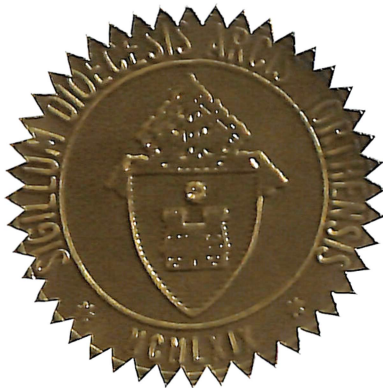
demonstrate competence in the Latin language and knowledge of the rubrics of the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Saint John XXIII in 1962, in order to enjoy this permission and faculty (Art. 5).

5. The celebration and administration of the other sacraments in accord with the liturgical rites according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970 and according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See are restricted to the competence of the priests assigned to Saint Benedict Parish in Fort Worth.

6. Members of the Catholic Faithful registered and domiciled within the territory of other parishes of the Diocese of Fort Worth and not registered at Saint Benedict Catholic Church, and who seek the celebration of the sacraments in accord with the liturgical rites according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970, are required to fulfill any prerequisites for sacramental preparation of their parish and Saint Benedict Parish and to seek in writing the explicit and written permission from their pastor for this request before requesting the sacraments from Saint Benedict Catholic Church. Such Catholic Faithful are to state their reasons for seeking this permission and include explicitly in their request that in seeking this permission they “do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by the Second Vatican Council and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs subsequent to the Second Vatican Council.” (*Traditionis Custodes*, Article 3, §1).

This Decree is effective on September 8, 2021, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Given this day, September 1, 2021, at the Chancery Office, Fort Worth, Texas



+ Michael F. Olson

The Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

E. James Hart

The Reverend Monsignor E. James Hart
Chancellor