



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



September 1, 2021

Dear Fathers,

Please find under cover of this letter my *Decree Implementing the Motu Proprio, Traditionis Custodes*, promulgated by Pope Francis on July 16, 2021. Please post my decree in your parish bulletin and on your parish website., as well as with links to the Holy Father's motu proprio and accompanying letter to bishops.

In accord with *Traditionis Custodes*, I am appointing Father Karl Pikus, FSSP, to serve as my delegate to be entrusted with pastoral oversight of the liturgical celebrations in accord with the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970 and with the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful who adhere to this form of the Latin Rite.

Since its canonical establishment as a parish of the Diocese of Fort Worth on August 1, 2015, Saint Benedict's Catholic Church has grown from 35 registered families to over 140 registered families currently---each and all with residences in the geographical territory of the Diocese of Fort Worth as expected by Canon Law. They are a faithful and vibrant community. As one of 91 parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Saint Benedict's has an active religious education program in conformity with the policies of the Diocese of Fort Worth and has an active sacramental and social life just as every other parish in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The purpose of the establishment of the parish was to ensure their inclusion as members at one with the life of the local church.

In conclusion, I have two requests of you. First, I ask you to pray for ever greater awareness of our responsibility to be men of communion as priests, that we might work to display this unity for which Jesus prayed as He died on the Cross. Secondly, I ask of you what the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has asked of all of us in his letter to the bishops. "I ask you to be vigilant in ensuring that every liturgy be celebrated with decorum and fidelity to the liturgical books promulgated after Vatican Council II, without the eccentricities that can easily degenerate into abuses." Ensure that your homilies are the fruits of prayer, study, and pastoral solicitude for the people who are faced with concrete challenges in our society that has become ever more adversarial to adherents to the Catholic Faith. Guide pastorally and collaborate lovingly with the liturgical and music ministers in your parish that the hymns be beautiful and theologically in accord with the authentic Gospel and teaching of the Church.

Let us continue to pray for each other as brother priests who were entrusted with the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries at our ordinations accompanied by these words of the bishop: "Receive from the Holy People of God the gifts to be offered to God. Know what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's cross." I remain,

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

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

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