



DECREE

IMPLEMENTING THE *MOTU PROPRIO*, *TRADITIONIS CUSTODES*, IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Archdiocese of Seattle

Whereas:

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

Whereas:

In accord with 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 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)";

Whereas:

The diocesan bishop "is to establish at the designated locations the days on which the eucharistic celebrations are permitted using the Roman Missal promulgated by Saint John XXIII in 1962";

Whereas:

In the "Letter of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops of the Whole World, That Accompanies the Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio* *Data 'Traditionis Custodes'*" Pope Francis states that he "intends to re-establish [unity] throughout the Church of the Roman Rite";

Whereas:

In that same Letter Pope Francis states: “In defense of the unity of the Body of Christ, I am constrained to revoke the faculty granted by my Predecessors. The distorted use that has been made of this faculty is contrary to the intentions that led to granting the freedom to celebrate the Mass with the Missale Romanum of 1962”;

Whereas:

In that same Letter, having listened to the requests of his brothers in the Episcopate, Pope Francis states: “I take the firm decision to abrogate all the norms, instructions, permissions and customs that precede the present Motu proprio, and declare that the liturgical books promulgated by the saintly Pontiffs Paul VI and John Paul II, in conformity with the decrees of Vatican Council II, constitute the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite”;

Whereas:

In that same Letter Pope Francis indicates his vision that people presently celebrating Mass with the Roman Missal of 1962 “need to return in due time to the Roman Rite promulgated by Saints Paul VI and John Paul II”;

Therefore:

I, the Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle, do hereby decree the following:

1. The People of God of the Archdiocese of Seattle will diligently strive for the unity expressed in the Eucharistic celebration by continuing to give proper attention to the faithful and dignified celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Rite promulgated by Saints Paul VI and John Paul II.
2. It has been determined that the priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter do not deny the validity and legitimacy of the liturgical reform as directed by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs, and therefore may continue to use the Roman Missal of 1962 (Art. 3, para. 1).
3. Since the church of the North American Martyrs, Edmonds, Washington, was canonically erected as a personal parish and location for the faithful to gather for the eucharistic celebration of Mass using the 1962 Roman Missal, the parish will be retained so long as it is effective for the spiritual growth of the faithful (Art. 3, para. 2 & 5).
4. Since it will contribute to the spiritual good of the faithful, a dispensation is granted from Art. 3, para. 2 of *Traditionis Custodes* authorizing the continued use of the Roman Missal of 1962 at the parish church of Saint Joseph, Tacoma, Washington.
5. The priests of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter are entrusted with these celebrations, which can take place on any day of the year permitted by the liturgical books. They are also entrusted with pastoral care of the faithful who attend the Masses at the churches of the North American Martyrs, Edmonds, and Saint Joseph, Tacoma (Art. 3, para. 3).

6. Priests living and/or ministering in the Archdiocese of Seattle are not authorized either to begin or to continue enjoying the faculty to celebrate Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962.

This Decree is effective upon promulgation by publication on the webpage for the Archdiocese of Seattle, archseattle.org, and in the official publication, *Northwest Catholic*.

Given at the Chancery
of the Archdiocese of Seattle
this 8th day of September
+Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
in the year of the Lord 2021.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul D. Etienne".

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mary E. Santi".

Mary E. Santi
Chancellor