



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

24 August 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May the Lord give you peace.

As you know, recently the Holy Father released an apostolic letter, *moto proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes*, on the celebration of the Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal, sometimes referred to as the Latin Mass or the Extraordinary Form in which he states eight specific articles are to be carried out in his expressed desire “to press on ever more in the constant search for ecclesial communion,” especially in her Eucharistic faith and worship.

As we strive to understand this document it is important for us to be mindful of our great responsibility when celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Whether in the Ordinary Form, *Novus Ordo Missae*, or the Extraordinary Form, Latin mass, the ecclesial community should always recognize the importance of exercising decorum and practicing fidelity to the liturgical books.

The Roman Church, of course, allows special preference towards the Latin language, it has been used for over sixteen centuries. The official liturgical books of the Roman Rite are still published in Latin today. The Code of Canon Law provides us with the understanding that the Eucharistic celebration is to be carried out in the Latin language or in another language provided that the liturgical texts have been legitimately approved. Latin is the language of the Roman Catholic Church and always suitable for the celebration of Holy Mass in all forms.

The precise meaning and proper implementation of the *motu proprio* issued will require time for consultation and clarification with experts in canon law and liturgy, so we may allow for the celebration of the Mass in Extraordinary form in conformity with the norms of *Traditionis Custodes* and the intentions of the Holy Father. Until decisions are made on the best implementation in the Diocese of La Crosse, I am granting Priests who already offer Mass in the Extraordinary Form, permission to continue to do so at this time. I request that priests who are currently celebrating Mass in the Extraordinary Form and who have not already sent a formal letter to my office please submit a written request prior to Sept. 10, 2021.

This information is needed in order to understand the number of the Faithful participating and the pastoral need for the celebration according to the Missal of 1962 throughout our Diocese.

The celebration of the Holy Mass provides us the gift of the Holy Eucharist making Jesus present to us each day. It is at the heart of the Church uniting us with Christ. Please remember with special intention the implementation of *Traditionis Custodes* and those individuals who will consult with me to establish the norms for the Diocese of La Crosse allowing us to minister in unity to all the faithful.

In the heart of Jesus and Mary, I am,

Very truly yours,

+William Patrick Callahan

Bishop