



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 12, 2021

Dear Priests and Deacons,

The Eucharist is the highest form of praise we as Church can celebrate. It is the “summit and source” of our lives and it should be a source of unity in the Church. The Second Vatican Council indicated that the Liturgy should be renewed with the goal of full and active participation of the entire gathered community. In the years following the Council, the Church has developed many changes in the liturgy, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist. The lectionary was expanded to include many more selections from the Scriptures, especially the addition of the Gospels of Luke and Mark. Additional Eucharistic prayers were added to the Roman Missal and there was a special call to celebrate Mass in the vernacular without losing the prayerful and musical traditions of the Latin language.

In addition, some of the varying roles of the priest, deacon and sub deacon were delegated to the non-ordained, most recent of which were the institutions of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte for the laity. Informally these responsibilities have been carried out for years by men and women involving many of the laity. While these changes have been for the most part successful, the charge of the Council for “active” participation has not been fully accepted and realized. There is still much passivity on the part of many congregations in terms of the prayers and especially the music. Much work still has to be done in these areas. Also, the Holy Father has indicated that perhaps celebrants do not pay as much attention to making the Liturgy prayerful and reverential for the people and therefore, presiders must pay more attention to celebrating the Liturgy well — it is so necessary for the people of God to be nourished, inspired, challenged, and enthused by our Eucharistic celebrations — we must be willing to offer our very best to God.

While celebrating the Mass of 1962 can be a spiritual help to many people, it is not necessarily consistent with the direction that Vatican II pointed out to the Church. The silence, the sense of reverence, the beauty of the Gregorian Chant, the opportunity for personal reflection, perhaps even the opportunity for personal private prayer apart from the prayers and actions of the priest can be spiritually helpful. However, many of these goals can be achieved in eucharistic adoration or private prayer; I share the Holy Father’s concern.

In addition, there are those, indeed even in our own diocese who regard the Mass of 1962 as the “TRUE Mass” while relegating the “NOVUS ORDO” to a lesser expression of the prayer of the Church. This is unacceptable as the Holy Father has indicated. In recognizing the desire of some of the faithful to be part of the Mass of 1962 while accepting the validity and necessity of the

“NOVUS ORDO,” I hereby decree the following policy for the celebration of the Mass according to the Missal of 1962 in the Diocese of Charleston. These directives become effective the first Sunday of Advent, 2021.

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Policy Regarding Celebration of the Mass of 1962 in the Diocese of Charleston

A singular Mass of Obligation in the following Parishes on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is permitted with the following conditions:

1. On Christmas, it may not be the Mass at Night (midnight).
2. It may not be celebrated during the Triduum or the Easter Vigil.
3. A singular Mass may be celebrated on All Souls Day.
4. The Mass of 1962 may be celebrated on weekdays if an additional Mass is celebrated according to the “NOVUS ORDO” on the same day.

Parishes

- Stella Maris — Sullivans Island
- Sacred Heart — Charleston
- Prince of Peace — Taylors
- Our Lady of the Lake — Chapin

Priests

Those priests who have been celebrating this Mass prior to the date of Pope Francis’ MOTU PROPRIO and who have indicated to me that they were doing so, may celebrate this Mass in above named parishes under the directives stated above. These priests have been notified of this permission.

Regarding Celebration of certain Sacraments in the “Tridentine form”

1. Baptism — permitted only at the request of the individual parents. No group Baptism is permitted. *Note:* Deacons may not celebrate in the Tridentine ritual.
2. Confirmation — not permitted.
3. Matrimony — with permission of ordinary.
4. Anointing of the Sick — not permitted.
5. Funerals — Only at specific prior written request of the deceased.

Note

Baptism, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick could be celebrated in Latin according to the most recent updating of the rites.

Policy to be effective on the First Sunday of Advent: November 28, 2021.



Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmo, DD
Bishop of Charleston