



ARCHDIOCESE of MOBILE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

On July 16, 2021, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter, *motu proprio*, entitled *Traditionis Custodes*, on the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970.

This Apostolic Letter recognizes that the Mass according to the Reform of 1970 is the unique expression of the Roman Rite. At the same time, the Apostolic Letter grants the local diocesan bishop exclusive competence to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese, according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See. The diocesan bishop is to designate one or more locations where the faithful adherents of the Liturgy prior to the reform of 1970 may gather for Eucharist celebrations and to appoint a priest who is entrusted with the celebrations. The days and locations of the celebrations are to be established by the diocesan bishop.

The diocesan bishop is to make certain that those who wish to celebrate according to the Missal antecedent to the Reform of 1970 do not deny the validity and legitimacy of the liturgical reform.

In accord with this Apostolic Letter, it is my responsibility to follow its provisions attentive both to the spiritual needs of the people of the Archdiocese and to the respect and obedience which I have promised the Successor of St. Peter, the Holy Father.

Having consulted with the priests of the Archdiocese by attending meetings with the priests of all deaneries, and having devoted considerable prayer and reflection to this decision, I have decided that in the Archdiocese of Mobile Mass according to the Rite of Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970 may be celebrated solely at the following locations. This is effective Saturday, December 11, 2021.

For the past few years Reverend M. Dennis Irwin has celebrated a Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal at various parishes. He has received permission to celebrate a Mass twice a month according to the 1962 Roman Missal at Saint John the Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Reverend William P. Saucier has celebrated a Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal since 2019. He has received permission to celebrate a Mass twice a month at Saint Bridget Church, Whistler.

In these celebrations the readings are proclaimed in the vernacular, using translations of the Sacred Scripture approved for liturgical use by the Episcopal Conference. In this Archdiocese this norm will be followed in one of two ways:

The readings may be read or sung in Latin, in the normal manner as specified by the Rite with the vernacular readings proclaimed at the ambo following the Latin Gospel;

Or, alternatively, in a Low Mass, the vernacular readings may replace the Latin and be proclaimed at the normal locations for the readings as indicated in the Rite. Since there is not at this time an edition of the vernacular readings that corresponds with the

Missale Romanum 1962 formally approved for the Dioceses of the United States of America, priests who celebrate these Masses may utilize the vernacular translations found in any hand missal published with ecclesiastical approval until further notice.

Public Masses according to the Missale Romanum 1962 with a congregation outside the established sites and times may not be celebrated under any circumstances.

There are other Masses using the 1962 Roman Missal which are periodically celebrated in the Archdiocese of Mobile. All of these other Masses are of very recent origin during the past several months and are to be discontinued. Those members of the faithful who attend these Masses are invited to join in the celebration of the Masses mentioned above.

The Apostolic Letter provides that priests who wish to celebrate Mass according to the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970 should request permission of the diocesan bishop to do so. Fathers Irwin and Saucier have already been designated to celebrate Mass according to the Roman Liturgy Prior to the reform of 1970 in the sites selected. Other priests who wish the requisite permission to celebrate private Masses (non-scheduled, non-publicized, and non-recorded) may request explicit permission of the Diocesan Bishop. This includes all visiting priests to the Archdiocese. These requests will be considered. A private Mass is a Mass with only one other person present with the celebrant.

According to Apostolic Letter, "Previous norms, instructions, permissions, and customs that do not conform to the provisions of the present motu proprio are abrogated." Consequently, the requisite faculty to celebrate other sacraments and sacramentals according to the liturgical books legitimately approved for use in 1962 has been granted to the priests who have been selected to celebrate Mass at the selected sites. No use of the pre-1970 liturgical books is permitted apart from those cases and locations included in this decree.

I deeply appreciate all who have been praying for me as I discerned the most appropriate fashion in which to implement the Apostolic Letter in our Archdiocese. May God bless each of you.

Sincerely in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Thomas J. Rodi". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi
Archbishop of Mobile

Signed at Mobile, November 5, 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronnie A. Hathorne". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Deacon Ronnie A. Hathorne
Chancellor

Signed at Mobile, November 5, 2021