



# DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DECREE IMPLEMENTING THE *MOTU PROPRIO*, *TRADITIONIS CUSTODES*, IN THE DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

To Our Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Saginaw

### PREAMBLE

**Whereas**, the Supreme Pontiff Francis has issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes* (TC), on the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, effective immediately upon publication in *L'osservatore Romano*;

**Whereas**, according to this Apostolic Letter and the Letter to Bishops accompanying it, Pope Francis was motivated out of a concern for the unity of the Church, and thus he intends to establish liturgical unity in the Roman Rite, by means of the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite, following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council (TC. Art.1);

**Whereas**, according to this Apostolic Letter it is the exclusive competence of the diocesan bishop “to authorize the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* in his diocese according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See” (TC. Art.2);

**Whereas**, the “bishop of the diocese in which until now there exists one or more groups that celebrate according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, it is to determine that these groups do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs” (TC. Art. 3, §1);

**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” (TC. Art. 3, § 2);

**Whereas**, the diocesan bishop is to appoint a priest as his delegate, who is entrusted with these celebrations and with the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful. This priest should be suited for this responsibility, having demonstrated skills in the use of the *Missale Romanum* antecedent to the reform of 1970, demonstrated knowledge of the Latin language sufficient for a thorough comprehension of the rubrics and liturgical texts, and animated by a lively pastoral charity and by a sense of ecclesial communion. This priest should have at heart not only the correct celebration of the liturgy, but also the pastoral and spiritual care of the faith (Art. 3§4);

**Whereas**, the diocesan bishop is to take care not to authorize the establishment of new groups (TC. Art. 3 § 6);

**Whereas**, according to canon 87, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, “A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges, that dispensation will contribute to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church”;

**Therefore**, I, The Most. Rev. Robert D. Gruss, Bishop of Saginaw, do hereby

### **DECREE**

The following:

1. Since it will contribute to the spiritual good of the faithful to the extent that it may be needed, a dispensation is granted from Art. 3, § 2 of *Traditionis Custodes* authorizing the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* at **Holy Family Parish, in Saginaw**, this dispensation is granted until Pentecost of 2024. This decree will be reviewed at that time.
  - i. It has been determined that such a celebration should not be included in the parish Mass schedule, since it is attended only by the faithful who are members of the said group;
  - ii. It has been determined that it should not be held at the same time as the pastoral activities of the parish community and if another venue becomes available, this permission will be withdrawn;
  - iii. It has been determined that the Scripture readings are to be proclaimed in the vernacular language, using the official translation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Practices and arrangements of liturgical space and altar, which merge elements of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* into the *Novus Ordo* Masses, are not permitted;
  - iv. It has been determined that sacraments of Baptism and Marriage are allowed to be celebrated according to the recognized liturgical texts of the *Usus Antiquior* following these provisions:
    - a) The Sacrament of Baptism: The celebration of the sacrament of Baptism using the *Rituale Romanum (editio typica 1952)* is allowed only for members of the Holy Family Parish who have been registered with the parish for at least six months prior to the time of the request for Baptism.
    - b) The Sacrament of Marriage: Prior permission is required and will be granted by the diocesan bishop on a case-by-case basis for the celebration of Marriage using the *Rituale Romanum (editio typica 1952)*. Permission would be granted only to registered members of the Holy Family Parish who have been registered with the parish for at least six months prior to the time of request for Marriage.

- v. There is no intention in these provisions to marginalise the faithful who are rooted in the previous form of celebration, rather they are only meant to remind them that this is a concession to provide for their good (in view of the common use of the one *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite) and not an opportunity to promote the previous rite.
2. It has been determined that no other locations are authorized in which Mass may be celebrated using the 1962 *Missale Romanum* other than the location mentioned above.

I hereby,

### **DELEGATE**

1. In Accordance with *Traditionis Custodes*, (TC.Art. 3,§4) I hereby appoint Rev. Prentice Tipton to be my delegate for matters pertaining to liturgical celebrations according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* and assist the appointed priests to continue celebrating the Mass using the *Missale Romanum* of 1962.
2. The priests appointed are entrusted with these celebrations, and it has been determined that the priests do not deny the validity and legitimacy of the liturgical reform as dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme pontiffs (TC. Art.3, §1).
3. That visiting priests from outside the diocese are not authorized either to begin or to continue enjoying the faculty to use the *Missale Romanum* 1962 in the Diocese of Saginaw.
4. That priests who do not request and receive the faculties by the diocesan bishop are not authorized to celebrate the Eucharist using the *Missale Romanum* 1962 in the Diocese of Saginaw, whether publicly or privately, and may not do so until the permission is granted.
5. It has been determined that priests ordained after July 16, 2021, who wish to celebrate Mass using the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 must make a request in writing to the diocesan bishop outlining the reasons for his desire to celebrate Mass in the *Usus Antiquior* of the Roman Rite.
  - i. Such priests must first be determined to be suitable (TC. Art. 3);
  - ii. It has been determined that in accordance with the requirements of *Traditionis Custodes*, the Apostolic See will be consulted before granting of such requests; and

I hereby,

## ESTABLISH

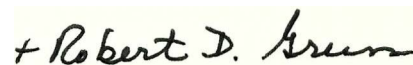
That the celebration of a Mass using the 1962 *Missale Romanum* is restricted to Sundays at the Holy Family Parish following its current respective schedule and is not to be celebrated on weekday Masses, Christmas Eve/ Day (unless it falls on a Sunday), the Easter Triduum, or Pentecost (Art. 3§3).

Everything I have decreed must be observed in all its parts. Anything else to the contrary notwithstanding, even if worthy of particular mention, may not be carried out following the promulgation of this decree, I establish that it be promulgated by way of publication on the website of the Diocese of Saginaw.

The provisions of this decree must become effective on Monday, April 18, 2022. These stipulations are subject to modifications and amendments as deemed necessary by the Roman Pontiff.

Given on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord 2022, at the Chancery of Saginaw.

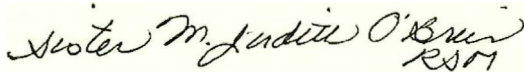
Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ Robert D. Gruss

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Most Reverend Robert D. Gruss  
Bishop of Saginaw



Sister Mary Judith O'Brien  
R.S.M.

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Sister Mary Judith O'Brien, R.S.M.  
Chancellor/ Ecclesiastical Notary