



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

July 23, 2021

My dear brother priests, deacons, and all lay faithful,

Having received the apostolic letter *Traditionis Custodes* given by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on the 16th of July 2021, I am pleased to formally decree instructions for our diocese regarding the use of the Roman Missal of 1962. Pope Francis highlighted in his letter that by my office as Bishop of Phoenix, I am entrusted with the responsibility of “moderator, promoter, and guardian of the whole liturgical life” in our diocese. It is in this spirit of subsidiarity that I write the present letter.

While I am aware that the Extraordinary Form of the liturgy has been accompanied in some circumstances and places with a spirit of dissension or division, in the diocese of Phoenix I have seen growth in faith and communion among the parishes that offer the old form of the Mass. In this context, I have been pleased to work with local priests who have been true shepherds to their flocks, spending themselves to foster faithful communities where ecclesial communion is treasured and strengthened. For this reason, I have determined that the celebrations of the Roman Missal of 1962 at these specific parishes be retained in the Diocese of Phoenix. I have appointed Rev. Fernando Camou as my delegate in matters of these celebrations and the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful.

I pray that this implementation of the Holy Father’s new legislation here in the diocese of Phoenix will bear the good fruit of deeper faith, hope, and love in our hearts and in our lives. As your shepherd, I invite all to keep the gaze of our hearts intent on the Lord in every celebration of the Eucharist. Permit me to repeat what I wrote in my apostolic exhortation *Veneremur cernui*: “Jesus our Lord and God is present to us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist in His self-offering to the Father and His merciful outpouring of love for us. Let us adore Him with ever increasing reverence!”

United in the Sacrament of the Eucharist,

I am sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted

Bishop of Phoenix

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