



Office of the Bishop

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC church of phoenix

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August 23, 2007

Dear Brothers in Christ,

As I am sure you are aware, on July 7, 2007 our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI issued his Apostolic Letter, *Summorum Pontificum* in the form of a "*Motu Proprio*". In this letter Pope Benedict gave permission to any priest of the Latin Rite to privately celebrate the Roman Missal promulgated by Blessed John XXIII in 1962 (Tridentine Mass). This means that priests no longer need special permission from their bishops to celebrate this form of the Roman Rite. The *Motu Proprio* **takes effect on September 14, 2007, the Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross.**

Although every priest now has permission to celebrate this rite in private, please note the following:

1. Our Holy Father writes: "*Priests who use the Missal of Blessed John XXIII must be qualified to do so and not juridically impeded.*" Priests must be in good standing; but this also means that you must be able to "read Mass" in Latin and be trained in the rubrics of the missal of Blessed John XXIII. Our Holy Father highlights this further: "*The use of the old Missal presupposes a certain degree of liturgical formation and some knowledge of the Latin language*"
2. Our Holy Father continues: "*The Missal published by Paul VI and then republished in two subsequent editions by John Paul II, obviously is and continues to be the normal Form of the Eucharistic liturgy.*" Therefore it is inappropriate to replace a normally scheduled Sunday *Novus Ordo* Celebration of the Eucharist with a "Tridentine" celebration.
3. The *Motu Proprio* is a special permission for priests who have a devotion to the earlier rite which allows them to deepen their Eucharistic Spirituality through this private celebration. However, no priest is obligated to either learn Latin or to be liturgically formed in the Rite of Blessed John XXIII.
4. If you find that there is a stable group of the faithful who wish to join you in your celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Missal published in 1962, you can invite them to join in your celebration.

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5. If there are members of your parish who wish to celebrate the Tridentine form, and you choose not to celebrate this rite in your parish please remind them of **Mater Misericordiae Mission** which I established to provide for the spiritual needs of the faithful who desire to celebrate Mass according to the Missal of Blessed John XXIII.
6. The *Motu Proprio*, in addition to giving permission for the priest to celebrate the Missal of Blessed John XXIII, also allows for the readings to be read in the vernacular. Please note that the readings are found in the Missal of 1962 and not taken from the present lectionary.
7. Great care should be taken, for those who choose to celebrate in both forms, not to create a hybrid liturgy, by combining elements from the two forms.

If you have a desire to celebrate the Mass of Blessed John XXIII, please make your desire known to me so that we can provide language assistance and proper liturgical training in the celebration of the Tridentine Rite. Fr. Ken Fryar, The Society of the St. Peter, has indicated his willingness to assist in liturgical formation. What we offer as a Diocese will depend on the number of interested priests.

If you have not yet had a chance to read *Summorum Pontificum*, the entire document can be found on the Diocesan website.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix