August 16, 2021

Dear brother priests, deacons and faithful of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City,

I have received with interest the apostolic letter Traditionis Custodes promulgated by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on July 16, 2021. Having consulted canonical experts and pastors, and having prayerfully considered how its implementation ought to be carried out in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, I am pleased to formally decree instructions for our archdiocese regarding the use of the 1962 Roman Missal.

Pope Francis highlighted in his letter that in virtue of my episcopal office I am entrusted with the responsibility of being “moderator, promoter and guardian of the whole liturgical life” in our archdiocese. It is in this spirit that I offer these instructions:

While one of the goals of Traditionis Custodes is to give individual bishops the ability to address divisions or a lack of unity caused by the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the liturgy in some places, I have not found that sort of division to be evident in parishes of our archdiocese. Therefore, it is my desire to offer my support to those parishes and priests who have been offering Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal. For this reason, I have determined that Masses offered according to the 1962 Roman Missal at specific parishes may be retained in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In accord with the instructions of Traditionis Custodes, I have appointed Reverend Zachary Boazman to serve as my delegate in matters pertaining to these celebrations and the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful.

I pray that the implementation of Traditionis Custodes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City will bear good fruit and foster deeper bonds of communion among all the faithful.

With the assurance of my prayers and every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

[Signature]

Most Reverend Paul S. Coakley
Archbishop of Oklahoma City