

MOST REVEREND  
LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III  
BISHOP OF BILOXI



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**DECREE IMPLEMENTING THE *MOTU PROPRIO TRADITIONIS CUSTODES*  
IN THE DIOCESE OF BILOXI**

IN THE NAME THE MOST HOLY TRINITY. Amen.

Whereas on July 16 of this year, the Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, His Holiness Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio* On the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970, *Traditionis custodes*, in force upon its lawful promulgation;

Whereas this Apostolic Letter grants exclusive competence to the diocesan bishop “to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See” (Art. 2);

Whereas the “bishop of the diocese in which until now there exist one or more groups that celebrate according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970 is to determine that these groups do not deny the validity and legitimacy of the liturgical reform, dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs” (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)” (Art. 3, §2); and

Whereas according to canon 87, §1 of the Code of Canon Law, “A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that a dispensation will contribute to the 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”;

Now therefore, I, the Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III, by the Grace of God and favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Biloxi, do hereby DECREE the following:

1. It has been determined that the priests of the Diocese of Biloxi who have heretofore celebrated Mass according to the Missal antecedent to the reform of 1970 and the groups to whom they minister do not deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform as dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs, and therefore may continue to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* (Art. 3, §1).

2. 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 the parish churches where it has heretofore been used. Eucharistic celebrations are permitted at these locations using the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Saint John XXIII in 1962 on any or all days of the year previously allowed. In these celebrations the readings are to be proclaimed in the vernacular, using translations of the Sacred Scripture approved for liturgical use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Art. 3, §3).

3. Priests formerly entrusted with these celebrations and with the pastoral care of the faithful who attend them continue to be so entrusted (Art. 3, §4).

4. Priests who already celebrate Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* of 1962 in the Diocese of Biloxi continue to enjoy this faculty upon request (Art. 5).

This Decree is effective immediately.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Biloxi this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, A.D. 2021, the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene.



Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman, III  
Bishop of Biloxi

In Witness Whereof:

