
**COORDINATING GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE APOSTOLIC LETTER *SUMMORUM PONTIFICUM*
OF POPE BENEDICT XVI**

[Promulgated by Cardinal Rigali on January 8, 2008; Amended on September 14, 2008]

These guidelines are presented to the clergy, members of the consecrated life, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a complement to the norms established in the Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum*, given Motu Proprio, by Pope Benedict XVI on July 7, 2007. I present these guidelines as part of my duty and responsibility as moderator, promoter, and guardian of the proper and reverent celebrations of the Sacred Liturgy in all its forms throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (cf. canon 835, §1). These guidelines are effective immediately.

I. GENERAL NORMS

- A. *The Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite* is the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Paul VI, together with the liturgical books approved after the Second Vatican Council. This Missal remains the normal form of the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Church.
- B. *The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite* is the Roman Missal promulgated by Saint Pius V and reissued by Blessed John XXIII, together with the liturgical books approved prior to the Second Vatican Council. This Missal may be used in accordance with the norms established by *Summorum Pontificum* and with due regard for the following guidelines issued for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

II. SPECIFIC NORMS

- A. All priests are to celebrate the Sacred Liturgy with evident fidelity to all of the liturgical norms. A priest is qualified to celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite when he possesses the requisite knowledge of the rubrics of the Mass and he is competent in the Latin language (cf. art. 5, §4). If a priest wishes to celebrate the Extraordinary Form publicly, he is to demonstrate this competence to the Regional Auxiliary Bishop or his delegate. This competency needs only to be demonstrated once. This applies to all priests who wish to celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Deacons who are asked to participate in a Mass or sacred liturgy according to the Extraordinary Form are to demonstrate this same competency to the Regional Auxiliary Bishop or his delegate. This demonstration of the required competency is meant to allow for the faithful and fruitful celebration of the Extraordinary Form. To this end, the Theological Institute for Priests at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary will provide opportunities for priests to ensure the worthy celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

- B. The Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite may be celebrated by a priest in the following circumstances:
1. For Masses celebrated without a congregation, the Extraordinary Form may be celebrated on any day, with the exception of the Easter Triduum (cf. article 2). Though no additional permission from the Diocesan Bishop or his delegate is necessary, the priest is, of course, to be competent to celebrate the Extraordinary Form worthily, with due regard for the rubrics of the Mass and for the Latin language.
 - a. By its nature, a Mass without a congregation is not scheduled or announced via the parish bulletin or other means. The faithful may attend such a Mass, however, if they ask to be admitted by their own free will (cf. article 4).
 - b. An additional Mass is never celebrated at the same time that a public Mass is being celebrated in the same Church or Oratory.
 2. For public Masses, that is for Masses celebrated with a congregation, the Extraordinary Form may be celebrated when a stable group of the faithful makes a request to the pastor (cf. article 5, §1).
 - a. To ensure the worthy celebration of the Mass and the good ordering of pastoral care in the region, the pastor is first to consult with the Regional Auxiliary Bishop before acceding to a request.
 - b. A priest who has demonstrated his competency to the Regional Auxiliary Bishop or his delegate may publicly celebrate the Extraordinary Form (cf. article 5, §4).
 3. The Extraordinary Form may never be the exclusive way in which the Mass is celebrated on Sundays, feast days, or weekdays. No more than one Mass may be celebrated according to the Extraordinary Form on a Sunday or feast day (cf. article 5, §2). If only one Mass is celebrated on any given day in a parish or institution, then the Mass is to be celebrated according to the Ordinary Form (cf. Letter of Pope Benedict XVI to Bishops which accompanied *Summorum Pontificum*).

4. The Extraordinary Form may also be permitted by the pastor for other occasions, such as the celebration of the other Sacraments, funerals, or occasional celebrations when requested by the lay faithful or priests (cf. article 5, §§3 and 9). The pastor is first to consult with the Regional Auxiliary Bishop before acceding to such a request.
5. If upon receiving a request a pastor is unable to accede to such, he is to consult with the Regional Auxiliary Bishop (cf. article 7).
6. “Communities of Institutes of consecrated life and of Societies of apostolic life, of either pontifical or diocesan right, wishing to celebrate Mass in accordance with the edition of the Roman Missal promulgated in 1962, for conventual or “community” celebration in their oratories, may do so. If an individual community or an entire Institute or Society wishes to undertake such celebrations often, habitually or permanently, the decision must be taken by the Major Superiors, in accordance with the law and following their own specific decrees and statutes” (article 3). For such celebrations to take place in parish churches entrusted to the care of religious, these Coordinating Guidelines are to be followed.
7. All parishes and all other Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are to observe the norms of *Summorum Pontificum* and these guidelines.
8. Any priest who wishes to celebrate publicly the Extraordinary Form of the Mass is to put his request in writing to his Regional Auxiliary Bishop, who will confirm that the requesting priest is competent to celebrate the Extraordinary Form and that the necessary conditions are present to permit the public celebration of the Extraordinary Form.
9. Any questions about the implementation and application of *Summorum Pontificum* and these guidelines are to be addressed to me through the Regional Auxiliary Bishop, who will confer with the Chancellor (cf. Article 7).