



PROTOCOL ON THE OCCASION OF THE DESECRATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

The norms for the proper celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord, the exposition and the reservation of the Most Blessed Sacrament are to be carefully and consistently observed, with the vigilant oversight of the Pastor and/or chaplain, in all churches and oratories within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These norms are principally found in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, the ritual book, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* and the *Code of Canon Law*.

When the desecration of the Most Blessed Sacrament occurs during the celebration of Mass, with the reception of Holy Communion, during simple or solemn exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and/or to the reserved Most Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle, the following protocol is to be observed:

1. The Regional Bishop and/or the Dean should be informed immediately by the pastor or chaplain of the church or oratory. The Regional Bishop and/or Dean then inform the Archbishop immediately.
2. The Pastor or chaplain contacts the Office for Divine Worship for a suitable form of reparation for the desecration to be carried out by the pastor or chaplain.
3. A record is kept of the desecration and the reparation in the Chancery.

Approved by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput on Monday, July 6, 2015