



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

---

222 North Seventeenth Street · Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299  
Telephone (215) 587-0506 · Fax (215) 587-4545

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

March 4, 2022

Dear Brother Priests,

Today I am publishing the pastoral norms for the implementation of the Holy Father's July 16, 2021, *Motu Proprio, Traditionis custodes* for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. They are attached to this letter.

These norms express genuine pastoral care for the members of the faithful who are accustomed to celebrating the Sacred Liturgy according to the liturgical books prior to the present reform. At the same time, they represent Pope Francis' instructions for the regulation of the use of these books by the Diocesan Bishop (see *Traditionis custodes*, 2). These norms go into effect on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022.

As indicated in the attached norms, all priests who currently celebrate according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962) may continue to do so in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. However, in accord with *Traditionis custodes*, 5, they must obtain authorization to do so by March 31, 2022. Please send your request for authorization to my office.

Also, in accord with *Traditionis custodes*, 3, §4, the Director of the Office for Divine Worship, Father Dennis Gill, is my delegate to oversee the celebration of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform. The role of the delegate is described in the attached norms.

The publication of these pastoral norms reminds all of us of our duty as priests to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries with great reverence and attention for the glory of God and benefit of all his people.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D. D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia



**PASTORAL NORMS  
FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE MOTU PROPRIO *TRADITIONIS CUSTODES*  
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022**

Archbishop Nelson J. Perez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, promulgates the following pastoral norms for the application of the July 16, 2021, *Motu proprio, Traditionis custodes*, in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, effective as of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 27, 2022.

The Archbishop, in accord with the intentions of Pope Francis to regulate the use of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform and to foster a deeper ecclesial communion with the use of the current liturgical books, establishes these norms as the moderator, promoter and guardian of the Sacred Liturgy in the local Church (see *Sacrosanctum concilium*, 22, and *Christus Dominus*, 11). He also does this in accord with the *Code of Canon Law*, canon 87, §1, which permits him to make an adjustment locally to a universal law for the spiritual good of the faithful (see *Traditionis custodes*, 2).

These norms at the same time give due regard for the good of all in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and for those in our local church who have been accustomed to the use of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform.

1. The celebration of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform may continue as already established at the Quasi-Parish of Saint Mary, Conshohocken, which is staffed by the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter (see *Traditionis custodes*, 3, §2, §3, Decree, February 11, 2022).
2. The celebration of Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962) prior to the reform of 1970 may continue as currently occurring at Our Lady of Consolation Parish, Philadelphia, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Philadelphia, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission Church of Holy Saviour Parish, Norristown, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown (see *Traditionis custodes*, 3, §2, §3).
  - a. These celebrations are to take place outside of the regular schedule for Sunday Mass (*Responsa ad dubia*, CDW, December 18, 2021).

- b. The readings at Mass are to be proclaimed in the vernacular using approved translations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (*Traditionis custodes*, 3, §3).
  - c. The use of the *Rituale Romanum* (1952) is permitted only at the Quasi-Parish of Saint Mary, Conshohocken ( see *Responsa ad dubia*, CDW, December 18, 2021). This means that the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Marriage can only be celebrated according to the current liturgical books outside of the Quasi-Parish of Saint Mary, Conshohocken.
3. All priests who currently celebrate according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962) prior to the reform of 1970 may continue to do so in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. With *Traditionis custodes*, 5, all priests now must obtain authorization to do so from the Archbishop. The request for authorization from the Archbishop should be made by March 31, 2022.
4. According to the *Responsa ad dubia* of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, December 18, 2021, deacons and instituted ministers likewise must obtain a similar authorization from the Archbishop. The request for authorization from the Archbishop should be made by March 31, 2022.
5. All priests ordained after July 16, 2021, the publication date of *Traditionis custodes*, who wish to celebrate Mass according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962) must submit a formal request to the Archbishop who will then consult the Holy See before granting this authorization (see *Traditionis custodes*, 4).
6. The Director of the Office for Divine Worship of the Archdiocese is the delegate of the Archbishop to oversee the celebration of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform (see *Traditionis custodes*, 3, §4). The responsibility of the delegate is to insure the observance of *Traditionis custodes*, these pastoral norms, the competent celebration of the Roman Liturgy according to the *Missale Romanum* (1962) and responding to requests for celebrations of the Roman Liturgy prior to the present reform apart from what is already provided in these norms.