



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Priests

**From:** Father Lawrence A. DiNardo, V.E., Vicar for Canonical Services  
Father Edward L. Yuhas, Director, Department for Worship

**Date:** July 7, 2007

**Re:** *Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum*

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Today at noon at the Vatican Our Holy Father issued an Apostolic Letter in the form of a *Motu Proprio* entitled *Summorum Pontificum* on the use of the Roman liturgy prior to the reform of 1970. The Holy Father states that the document is the fruit of much reflection, numerous consultations and prayer. In order that you might be able to respond to questions that might arise concerning the specifics of the document, the following points of information are presented to assist you in your ministry.

- The *Roman Missal* promulgated by Pope Paul VI is to be regarded as the ordinary expression of the law of prayer of the Catholic Church of the Latin Rite. The *Roman Missal* promulgated by Saint Pius V and published again by Pope Blessed John XXIII in 1962 is to be considered the extraordinary expression of the law of prayer. The two expressions of the law of prayer of the Church in no way lead to a division in the law of prayer of the Church, for they are two uses of the one Roman Rite.
- In Masses celebrated without people, any priest of the Latin Rite, whether secular or religious, can use the *Roman Missal* published by Pope Blessed John XXIII in 1962 or the *Roman Missal* promulgated by the Supreme Pontiff Paul VI in 1970, on any day, except in the Sacred Triduum. For celebration in accordance with one or the other *Missal*, a priest does not require permission, neither of the Apostolic See nor by the Diocesan Bishop. The faithful, who spontaneously request it, may be admitted to this celebration. It is important to note that the celebration of the *Roman Missal* of Pope Blessed John XXIII is not permitted at regularly scheduled weekday or Sunday.

- In parishes where a group of faithful attached to the previous liturgical tradition exists stably, pastors are exhorted to willingly allow public Masses for the people using the *Roman Missal* of Pope Blessed John XXIII but no more that one per Sunday and feast days. The celebration of baptism, penance, anointing of the sick, weddings and funerals in the older rite is permitted in these parishes. In our diocese, the only parish that qualifies under this norm is Holy Wisdom Parish (Saint Boniface Church) located on the Northside of Pittsburgh. Since 1989 the Diocese of Pittsburgh has approved the celebration of the *Roman Missal* of Pope Blessed John XXIII of 1962. This extraordinary expression of the law of prayer of the Catholic Church is celebrated on Sundays and holydays of obligation at Saint Boniface Church (Holy Wisdom Parish). In addition, the diocese has permitted at Saint Boniface Church the celebration of baptism, penance, weddings and funerals according the rites of 1962 and has granted permission for the celebration of the *Roman Missal* of Pope Blessed John XXIII on other special occasions. Finally, the celebration of the Triduum using the 1962 *Roman Missal* has also been permitted at Saint Boniface Church.

The newly promulgated *Motu Proprio* becomes effective on September 14, 2007, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The full text and translation will be sent to you in the near future. Until the effective date of the *Motu Proprio* and until there is further direction from the diocese, there may not be any change in the present practice regarding the *Roman Missal* of Pope Blessed John XXIII.