



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

123 Nelson Rd
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1
www.rcdos.ca

Phone: 306-242-1500
Fax: 306-244-6010
Toll free: 877-661-5005



July 8, 2020

Celebration of the Sacred Liturgy

Dear Clergy, Religious, & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

One of the goals of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, titled “Proclaim Christ and the Kingdom of God Today” is to promote “excellent liturgy: *full and active participation*.” This goal cites *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, which is the foundational document from the Second Vatican Council that has guided the Church’s liturgical teaching over the last 50 years. In order to better celebrate the Sacred Liturgy in our diocese, I have consulted the six deaneries of our diocese, and have deliberated with our Liturgy Commission over the last year. As a result of the consultation and reflection, and guided by the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM, Canada 2011) I am updating the following liturgical directives for our diocese, effective August 2, 2020.

Postures During the Liturgy of the Eucharist

- 1) Postures during Eucharist Prayer – the faithful should kneel immediately following the *Sanctus (Holy Holy)* and until the *Mysterium Fidei (Memorial Acclamation)*.
- 2) Posture during the reception of Holy Communion – the faithful can receive either on the tongue, or in the hand. If received in the hand, a reverent bow is appropriate before receiving Communion. For the sake of appropriate efficiency and order, it is recommended that communion be received standing, although one may choose to receive while kneeling. Holy Communion should be always received with reverence and respect, and without the faithful feeling hurried.
- 3) Posture following the reception of Holy Communion – there is no explicit mention in the GIRM regarding posture after one receives Holy Communion. Given this fact, and also that there is a great variety of practice on this point throughout the diocese – which represents the legitimate diversity of devotional attitudes upon receiving Holy Communion – there will be no directive given regarding posture following receiving Holy Communion. Time for a short period of ‘sacred silence’ after all of the faithful have received should be observed.

Other Liturgical Matters

- 4) Using Bells at the Consecration – bells may be used at the elevation of the host and chalice: either rung once or three brief rings. A single ring may also be used at the invocation of the Holy Spirit when the priest's hands are placed with palms down over the Eucharistic bread and wine.
- 5) Tabernacle Security – all tabernacles are to be attached permanently so that they cannot be removed. They should be secured from inside and at the base of the tabernacle, so that the fastening cannot be accessed when the door is shut and locked.
- 6) Technology Use at Masses – this is a matter that has demanded much attention in recent years. While such technologies may seem to enhance participation, they can - if not properly employed or if overly used – detract from the sacredness of the church and the liturgy itself. The Liturgy Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released guidelines on the use of technology for the Sacred Liturgy. I direct all pastors to work with the parishes to follow these guidelines.
- 7) Mandating of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion – Extraordinary Ministers are to be annually mandated for each parish at a public liturgy of the Parish. The mandating ceremony is properly celebrated during a Sunday Mass on the Feast of Christ the King. The mandate is specific to the parish. Names of persons mandated are to be submitted to the Bishop's Office. Mandates are specific to the particular parish only.
- 8) Mandating of Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who fulfill Ministry to Seniors – is to be consistent with the general mandating of all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. As need dictates, the renewal of persons who minister with seniors can be mandated.

Decommissioned Churches

- 9) Policy for Decommissioning Parishes – A thorough process is to be followed in the event that a particular parish petitions to be “decommissioned” because it determines that it is no longer viable as a parish. This policy is titled, “Relegation of Churches from Sacred to Secular Use, Caring for its Assets, and Parish Suppression.” The policy features: a rigorous process of consultation within the parish community; process for dealing with church assets; the full process of closure.

- 10) Storage of liturgical furnishing and vestments – when a parish is closed, or when a parish has surplus liturgical items, a repository will be maintained by the diocese to inventory and re-distribute liturgical items throughout the diocese. Priority is given to maintaining items within the deanery region, then other parishes of the dioceses, and then other parishes outside the diocese.

Extraordinary & Ordinary Form of the Latin Rite Mass

- 11) Within the Diocese of Saskatoon, we celebrate the ONE ROMAN RITE of the MASS. There are two forms of this one Latin Rite of the Mass:
- a) the **Ordinary Form**: the Novus Ordo of the 1970 Missal;
 - b) the **Extraordinary Form**: the 1962 Missal– or the traditional Latin Mass last revised under Pope John XXIII.

On this point, I highlight Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who stated in his introduction of the *moto proprio*, “*Summorum Pontificum: On The Use Of The Roman Liturgy Prior To The Reform Of 1970*” – which permitted formally the use of the Mass according to the 1962 Missal –that we should think of the two forms as forms of **a single Roman rite** – and not as two separate rites or two separate Masses.

Let us recall Benedict XVI’s call to *unity* as we celebrate throughout our diocese in our common single liturgical worship the one, Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass. This will be one of two forms – but is always *the single rite* – in which we have the privilege of celebrating Jesus Christ who becomes present to us – in Word and Sacrament - as the source and summit of the Christian life.

I take this opportunity to commit myself with all of you to a deepening intimacy with our Lord through our common prayer and through liturgical renewal. Let us hold firm to the hope in the life, mission, and ministry of Jesus Christ through the celebration of all of the Sacraments of Christ and His Church, and especially through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which draws the faithful together from across our diocese and beyond on a daily and weekly basis.

I thank you for joining with me in our ongoing commitment to celebrate *excellent liturgy!*

Yours in Christ



✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen