



Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD
Bishop of Corpus Christi

April 4, 2023

Dear Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Corpus Christi:

On July 16, 2021, Pope Francis published *Traditionis Custodes* (“Guardians of the Tradition”), an Apostolic Letter concerning the reform of the 1970 (Traditional Latin Mass). In this letter, Pope Francis set forth various requirements regarding the Traditional Latin Mass. One requirement was that such a Mass be celebrated in a designated location; however, the Mass cannot be celebrated in a parochial church without a dispensation. It also required that any priest wishing to continue providing the Traditional Latin Mass must request permission from the local ordinary. Following the publication from the Holy Father, I granted a dispensation for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal to continue at a parochial church - St. John the Baptist Parish in Corpus Christi for the sake of the common good (Canon 87 §1).

In February 2023, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued a letter providing further guidance. This letter clarified that any dispensations to celebrate such a Mass in a parochial church that were previously granted by the local ordinary would need to be submitted for consultation with the Dicastery. It was also clarified that any additional dispensations would have to be granted by the Holy See.

For almost two years, the Traditional Latin Mass has been celebrated at St. John the Baptist by Reverend Rodolfo D. Vasquez, pastor of St. John the Baptist. Last week, Reverend Vasquez submitted his resignation as pastor of St. John the Baptist effective April 10, 2023. At this point in time, there is not another priest able to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish, which is the sole location with a dispensation to hold such a Mass. Until an alternative can be determined, it is necessary to suspend the Traditional Latin Mass until further direction on the issue can be obtained.

I will be communicating the situation to the Dicastery for Divine Worship who exercises authority of the Holy See in these matters. Once an assessment and guidance has been received from the Dicastery, I will update you promptly with a pastoral plan. With a continued remembrance of you in prayer, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, STL, DD
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