



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. N. 452/17

TULSENSIS

Instante Excellentissimo Domino David Augustino Konderla, Episcopo Tulsensi, litteris die 22 mensis septembris 2017 datis, vigore facultatum huic Congregationi a Summo Pontifice FRANCISCO tributarum, perlibenter concedimus, ut celebratio beati Stanley Rother, presbyteri et martyris, die 28 mensis iulii, in Calendarium proprium eiusdem dioecesis inseri valeat, gradu memoriae ad libitum quotannis peragenda.

Quoad textus liturgicos in honorem beati Stanley Rother lingua latina, anglica et hispanica exaratos, adhibeantur qui iam probati sunt (Prot. N. 275/17, decr. diei 25 mensis iulii 2017) et huic Decreto adnexi.

Contrariis quibuslibet minime obstantibus.

Ex ædibus Congregationis de Cultu Divino et Disciplina Sacramentorum, die 7 mensis martii 2018, in memoria Ss. Perpetuæ et Felicitatis, martyrum.



Robertus Card. Sarah

Robertus Card. Sarah
Præfectus

+ Arturus Roche

✠ Arturus Roche
Archiepiscopus a Secretis



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
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Attachment to Prot. N. 452/17 (7 March 2018)

Liturgical texts in honour of
Blessed Stanley Rother, Priest and Martyr,
approved for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma
(Prot. N. 452/17; 25-VII-2017), in Latin, English and Spanish.

Beati Stanley Rother presbyteri et martyris

De Communi martyrum: pro uno missionario martyre, vel de Communi pastorum: pro uno pastore.

COLLECTA

Deus,
qui tuo beato Stanley presbytero
cor pastoris martyrisque constantiam præstitisti,
eius intercessione concede,
ut eo perveniat humilitas gregis,
quo processit fortitudo pastoris.
Per Dominum.

Blessed Stanley Rother **Priest and Martyr**

From the Common of Martyrs: For One Missionary Martyr, or from the Common of Pastors: For One Pastor.

COLLECT

O God,
who gave your priest Blessed Stanley
the heart of a pastor and the fidelity of a martyr,
grant, through his intercession,
that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Beato Stanley Rother **presbítero y mártir**

Del Común de mártires: para un misionero mártir, o del Común de pastores: para un pastor.

ORACIÓN COLECTA

Oh Dios,
que otorgaste al beato Stanley, presbítero,
corazón de pastor y fidelidad de mártir;
concédenos, por su intercesión,
que la humildad del rebaño
llegue hasta donde le ha precedido la fortaleza del Pastor.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

BLESSED STANLEY ROTHER

Priest and Martyr

Blessed Stanley Francis Rother was born in Okarche, Oklahoma, USA on 27 March 1935. He discerned a call to the priesthood and began seminary formation in 1953. After initial academic struggles, he completed his seminary studies and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Oklahoma City and Tulsa on 25 May 1963. After five years of parish ministry he volunteered for the Oklahoma Catholic mission in Guatemala and spent the remainder of his life ministering there. He served his people generously even mastering their difficult language so that he could provide pastoral care and form them in their faith. When a bloody civil war reached his remote mission he chose to remain among his parishioners in spite of the danger to himself. Unknown assailants broke into the rectory at Santiago Atitlán and murdered Father Rother during the night of 28 July 1981. He was beatified in Oklahoma City on 23 September 2017.

Common of Martyrs: For One Martyr, or Common of Pastors: For One Pastor.

Office of Readings

THE SECOND READING

From an address of Pope Saint John Paul II
(General Audience, 7 July 1993)

The priest must be a man of charity.

The First Letter of John teaches us that "God is love." (1Jn 4:8) Since he is a man of God the priest must be a man of charity. He would have no true love for God (nor even true piety or true apostolic zeal) without love for his neighbor.

Jesus himself showed the connection between love for God and love for neighbor, since "loving the Lord, your God with all your heart" cannot be separated from "loving your neighbor." (Mt 22:36-40) Consistently, therefore, the author of the Letter cited above reasons: "This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1Jn 4:21)

Speaking of himself, Jesus describes this love as that of a "good shepherd" who does not seek his own interest, his own advantage, like a hired hand. He notes that the Good Shepherd loves his sheep to the point of giving his own life. (cf Jn10:11,15) This is a love to the point of heroism.

We know to what extent this was realized in the life and death of Jesus. Those who, in virtue of priestly ordination, receive the mission of shepherds are called to present anew in their lives, and witness to with their actions, the heroic love of the Good Shepherd.

In Jesus' life one can clearly see the essential features of the pastoral charity that he had for his brothers and sisters and that he asks his brother "shepherds" to imitate. Above all, his love was humble: "I am meek and humble of heart." (Mt 11:19) Significantly, he urges his Apostles to renounce their personal ambitions and any spirit of domination so as to imitate the example of the Son of Man who "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mt 10:45)

As a result, the mission of shepherd cannot be carried out with a superior or authoritarian attitude, which would irritate the faithful and perhaps drive them from the fold. In the footsteps of Christ the Good Shepherd we must be formed in a spirit of humble service.

Jesus also gives the example of a love filled with compassion, that is, a sincere, active sharing in the sufferings and problems of the faithful. He feels compassion for the crowd without a

shepherd; for this reason he is concerned to guide them by his words of life and begins to “teach them many things.” (Mk 6:34)

With this same compassion he healed many of the sick, as a sign of his intention to give spiritual healing; he multiplies the loaves for the hungry, an eloquent symbol of the Eucharist; he is moved by the sight of human misery, and wants to bring healing; he shared the pain of those who mourn the loss of a dear relative; he shows mercy even to sinners, in union with the Father who is full of compassion for the prodigal son and prefers mercy to ritual sacrifice; and there are cases in which he rebukes his adversaries for not understanding his mercy.

The presbyter thus finds in Christ the model of a true love for the suffering, the poor, the afflicted and especially for sinners, because Jesus is close to human beings with a life like our own; he endured trials and tribulations like our own; therefore he is full of compassion for us and “is able to deal patiently with erring sinners.” (Heb 5:2) Finally he is able effectively to help those sorely tried: “Since he was himself tested through what he suffered he is able to help those who are tempted.” (Heb 2:18)

According to the Council, the presbyter who wants to be conformed to the Good Shepherd and reproduce in himself his charity for his brothers and sisters will have to be committed to some very important tasks today, even more so than in other times: to know his own sheep, especially by contacts, visits, relations of friendship, planned or occasional meetings, always for a reason and with the spirit of a good shepherd; to welcome, as Jesus did, the people who come to him, remaining ready and able to listen, wanting to understand, open and genuinely kind, engaging in deeds and activities to aid the poor and unfortunate, to cultivate and practice those “virtues which are rightly held in high esteem in human relations. Such qualities are goodness of heart, sincerity, strength and constancy of mind, careful attention to justice, courtesy” (*Presbyterorum ordinis*, 3) as well as patience, readiness to forgive quickly and generously, kindness, affability, the capacity to be obliging and helpful without playing the benefactor. There are a myriad of human and pastoral virtues which the fragrance of Christ’s charity can and must determine in the priest’s conduct.

RESPONSORY

R/ I am the good shepherd. * A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

V/ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.

* A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, who gave your priest Blessed Stanley the heart of a pastor and the fidelity of a martyr, grant, through his intercession, that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



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Prot. 452/17

Vatican City, 7 March 2018

Your Excellency,

The Congregation received your letter of 22 September 2017 in which you request that the liturgical celebration of Blessed Stanley Rother be inserted into the proper calendar of your Diocese on July 28. I am now happy to send you the Decree by which Blessed Stanley is inserted with the rank of optional memorial into the above mentioned calendar.

With regards to the liturgical texts to be used, that is the Collect prayer and the Second Reading for the Liturgy of the Hours, those already approved for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma in Latin, English and Spanish (Prot. N. 275/17, 25-VII-2017) are to be adopted.

With every good wish and kind regard, I am,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

✠ Arthur Roche
Archbishop Secretary

(attachments)

His Excellency
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