



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Brooklyn

310 Prospect Park West
Brooklyn, New York 11215

July 22, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On July 16, 2021, His Holiness Pope Francis issued a Motu Proprio which limited the celebration of the “Extraordinary Form” of the Mass. In the document, the Holy Father made several changes to the norms regarding the celebration which were previously promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI.

Chief among the changes is the limitation of priests who may celebrate the Mass. In fact, from this point on, priests will need to request permission from the Diocesan Bishop to celebrate the Mass of Pope St. John XXIII according to the 1962 Missal.

However, I want to assure the faithful of the Diocese of Brooklyn who regularly participate in the celebration of the Mass in Latin according to the 1962 Missal that the Masses will continue to be celebrated in the parish churches where they currently are celebrated, that is, at Saint Josaphat in Queens and at Our Lady of Peace in Brooklyn and in the Monasteries of the Most Precious Blood and Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph.

The liturgy of the Church is the supreme expression of the prayer of the Christian people. It is the “source and summit” of our life in Christ. The celebration of the Mass in Latin according to the 1962 Missal has proven to be a source of grace and blessing to many faithful Catholics in our Diocese. I want to assure those individuals and families who remain devoted to the older form of the Roman Rite of their Bishop’s concern for their spiritual welfare and of my gratitude for their witness of devotion to the Lord Jesus who gives Himself to us at every Eucharist.

As the expression of our oneness in Christ, the liturgy must also foster ever deeper bonds of communion with the whole Church and her pastors. Through the Motu Proprio, Pope Francis seeks to strengthen this unity through better coordination of these liturgical celebrations with the bishops who are the chief moderators of all sacramental celebrations in the local dioceses. We must try to see the wisdom and pastoral solicitude of the Holy Father for all the faithful and meet his challenge to become, each one of us, agents of Christ’s reconciling love in our parish communities.

The Catholic people of the United States are in need of a Eucharistic revival, so that all who believe in Jesus the divine Savior may experience his powerful presence in the great Sacrament of Charity. Let us lift up our hearts – *Sursum corda!* – to the One who alone brings peace to our souls and unity to our world.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn