



September 21, 2021
Feast of St. Matthew

OFFICE of the BISHOP

Hand Delivered

Reverend Monsignor Frank Chiodo
Reverend Father Guthrie Dolan
St. Anthony Parish
15 Indianola Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Dear Monsignor Chiodo and Father Dolan,

As you are well aware, on Friday, July 16, 2021, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Traditionis Custodes*, establishing new norms for the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum*. That same day, Archbishop José Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Bishops, encouraged the bishops of our country to “work with care, patience, justice and charity,” as the new norms are implemented. *Traditionis Custodes* itself clearly affirms that, “It belongs to the diocesan bishop, as moderator, promoter, and guardian of the whole liturgical life of the particular Church entrusted to him...to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese.”

Pope Francis was responding to perceived discord and division manifested in some parts of the Church that was attributed to the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum*. In contrast, in the Diocese of Des Moines, we have not experienced conspicuous liturgical discord and division. St. Anthony Parish has demonstrated a great devotion both to the sacred liturgy and to communion with the greater Church in the weekly Sunday celebration of Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*. For the good of the faithful who attend that Mass, I desire this means of spiritual edification for all participants—lay and clergy alike—to continue.

Therefore:

I grant permission for St. Anthony Parish to continue the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* at 5:00 PM Sundays. Canon 87, § 1 of the Code of Canon Law, states, “A diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that a dispensation will contribute to their spiritual good, is able to dispense the faithful from universal and particular disciplinary laws issued for his territory or his subjects by the supreme authority of the Church.” **For the spiritual good of the faithful, a dispensation is granted from Art. 3, § 2 of *Traditionis Custodes*, authorizing the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* at the parish church of St. Anthony’s in Des Moines, Iowa (USA).** As is already

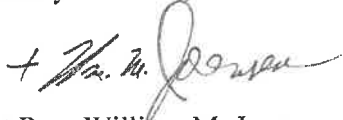
the practice, scripture readings are to be proclaimed in the vernacular at every Mass. Permanent faculties are extended to the priests assigned to St. Anthony's Parish to celebrate this Mass. The pastor (or his delegate) is asked to submit a list of priests who regularly substitute at this Mass to me via the Office of Worship so that they likewise may be provided standing permission.

Further, Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* may also be celebrated on Holy Days of Obligation and other feast days, but not during the Easter Triduum as the Triduum services should not be duplicated in a church. Should the pastor wish at some future point to discontinue the Mass, consultation must be made with the Office of Worship first so that pastoral care for those attached to this Mass may be provided.

Clarifications regarding these norms may be sought through the Office of Worship or the Office of the Vicar General.

Finally: I wish to thank you for your fidelity and devotion to the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries of our faith. Our Diocese is blessed with diversity of liturgical styles and expression, yet remains united in our adherence to the same liturgical rite. We witness the fruit of deepened communion, rather than division, among us. I look forward to praying with you and with the Sunday evening community in the very near future. May God strengthen our commitment to service of his people in word and sacrament.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. M. Joensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "W".

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.
Bishop of Des Moines

cc Father Michael Amadeo
 Father Trevor Chicoine
 Father Christopher Pisut
 Jason Kurth, Chancellor
 Anne Marie Cox, Communications