



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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DIOCESE OF NASHVILLE

22 July 2021

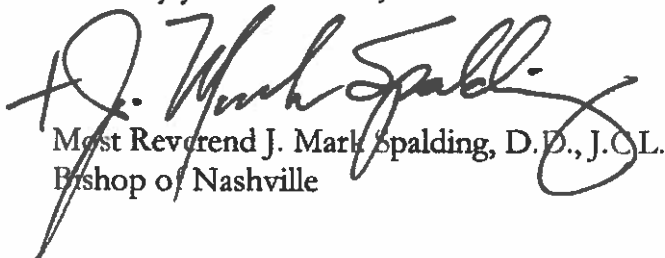
My Dear Pastors and Priests,

On Friday, the Holy Father promulgated an Apostolic Letter entitled *Traditionis Custodes* in which he made certain modifications and provisions concerning the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass. The same day, in order to avoid any abrupt changes that would cause undue distress among the faithful, the pastors of the affected parishes in our diocese were advised that they could continue with existing schedules and plans for Mass until more formal provision could be made.

My fundamental concern as your bishop is the spiritual welfare of the people of this great diocese. In that context, I want to express my respect for all those who experience such profound spiritual fruit in the context of the Traditional Latin Mass and assure them that their spiritual needs will continue to be met here in the Diocese of Nashville. The Holy Father's chief motivations are to promote the diocesan bishop's active custody of the liturgy, the adherence of all those involved to the magisterial teachings of the Church, the celebration of the traditional liturgy only in response to the needs of the Christian faithful, and the harmonious unity of the diocese. Since, in my judgment, these conditions are already present in the Diocese of Nashville and since those who participate in these liturgical realities have shown a consistent respect for the Second Vatican Council and a dedication to communion with the Church and her pastors, I desire to enact the norms of the *motu proprio* with minimal disruption to the people of the diocese.

With those thoughts in mind, I am providing the attached preliminary norms and guidelines to facilitate our continuing pastoral ministry in this area while respecting and responding to the new directives from the Holy See. Please know of my prayers and best wishes to all of you and those you hold dear.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Nashville

Living and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, Welcoming All!



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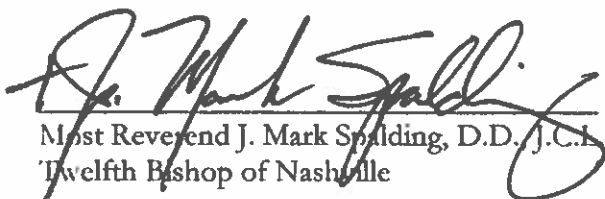
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Considering the Apostolic Letter *Traditionis Custodes* of the Supreme Pontiff Francis, given *motu proprio* on 16 July 2021 and entering force immediately, and in light of the role ascribed to the diocesan bishop by Article 2 of the same Apostolic Letter, I hereby establish the following norms and guidelines to be observed in the Diocese of Nashville.

1. I hereby designate the Church of the Assumption as a stably assigned location where the faithful may gather on any day of the year for the celebration of Mass according to liturgical books in use prior to the reform of 1970. As a territorial parish, the Church of the Assumption must also continue to provide the faithful with access to Mass celebrated according to the liturgy promulgated by Saints Paul VI and John Paul II as the unique expression of the *lex orandi* of the Roman Rite, in conformity with Article 1 and Article 3 § 2 of the Apostolic Letter.
2. I have designated and appointed the Reverend S. Bede Price, M.A. (Oxon.) as my delegate entrusted with overseeing these celebrations and the pastoral care of these groups of the faithful.
3. Priests ordained before July 16, 2021 who desire authorization to continue or begin celebrating Mass according to liturgical books in use prior to the reform of 1970, should direct a request to the Vicar General, Fr. John Hammond, whom I authorize and mandate to receive and respond to such requests. Priests ordained on or after this date may direct such a request to Fr. Hammond, who will make provision for my response, after the necessary consultation with the Holy See.
4. Without prejudice to Norm 1 above, pastors of parishes where Mass is currently celebrated according to liturgical books in use prior to the reform of 1970 within the context of the regular parish Mass schedule, may continue to celebrate these Masses through August 31, 2021. Those who wish to continue to do so after that date should direct a request to me indicating the existing practice, the size and stability of the attending community, the basic demographics of those who participate, and any other relevant information for my consideration of such a request.
5. The authorization for clerics to fulfill the obligation of prayer using the Roman Breviary and to celebrate sacraments and sacramentals according to the Roman Ritual, appears to be unaffected.

Given at Nashville, Tennessee, this 22nd day of July 2021, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene.


Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, D.D., J.C.L.
Twelfth Bishop of Nashville


Brian L. Cooper
Chancellor



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