

**Norms for the implementation of the
Apostolic Letter in the form of motu proprio –
Summorum Pontificum
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
August, 2007**

Introduction: The Holy Father, in reaching out to Catholics who have “an attachment to the preconciliar liturgical forms” (BCL Newsletter, May/June 2007), expanded the use of these liturgical forms through his recent Motu Proprio, *Summorum Pontificum*. *Summorum Pontificum* holds the weight of law and takes effect on September 14, 2007. The most significant change outlined in this apostolic letter is that permission by the diocesan bishop is no longer needed in order for priests to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal (preconciliar liturgy). However, the Holy Father laid down several conditions in his Motu Proprio which must be met in order for the celebration of Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal to occur. Additionally, as chief liturgist of the diocese, it is the local ordinary’s responsibility to ensure that liturgical norms are followed whether Mass is celebrated according to the *ordinary form* (current Roman Missal) or the *extraordinary form* (1962 Roman Missal). If a priest desires to celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati he must meet the following conditions:

Conditions:

- 1) A priest may celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass (according to the 1962 Roman Missal) **privately** if:
 - a) He demonstrates a sufficient knowledge and facility of the Latin language. (*Summorum Pontificum*, [SP], Art. 5.4)
 - b) He demonstrates a sufficient ability to observe the rubrics of the 1962 Roman Missal. (SP, Art. 5.4)
 - c) He demonstrates such abilities before a committee established by the Archbishop.

NB: While *Summorum Pontificum* allows the priest to celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass without the permission of the Ordinary, the Ordinary has the responsibility to see that all liturgy is celebrated in the proper manner and worthily; this is why showing competency is required.

NB: Frs. Giles Pater, David Robisch, and Timothy Kallaher have agreed to serve on the committee to certify that a priest has demonstrated the ability to celebrate in the *extraordinary form*. Priests interested in the *extraordinary form* should contact a member of the committee with any questions.

NB: A private Mass is one that is *not* publicized. The faithful may attend this Mass if they, “of their own free will,” ask to do so. (SP, Art. 4) Additionally, it is expected that at least one person is present as a server.

The *extraordinary form* may be celebrated privately at anytime except during the Sacred Triduum. (SP, Art. 2)

2) A priest may celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass (according to the 1962 Roman Missal) **publicly** if:

a) “*In parishes, where there is a stable group of faithful who adhere to the earlier liturgical tradition*” the members of this group request for him to do so. (SP, Art. 5.1)

NB: A “stable group of faithful” means a significant number of the faithful who have been celebrating this form regularly, or who have been desirous of this form over the years, and who of their own free will requested the *extraordinary form* of Mass. Such a Mass may be publicized only if a “stable group” has requested that the *extraordinary form* be celebrated. A priest, on his own, may not simply decide to publicly celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass without such a “stable group.”

b) He meets the qualifications laid out above (1a, 1b, 1c).

NB: If a priest is unable to meet the request of the group because he does not meet the conditions required to celebrate the *extraordinary form* of the Mass, he should recommend them to a parish where it is already being celebrated. (cf. SP, Art. 5.1) Currently, there are two parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati that celebrate the *extraordinary form* of Mass: Sacred Heart, Camp Washington, and Our Lady of the Rosary, Dayton.

NB: In order to have an updated list of parishes where the *extraordinary form* of the Mass is being celebrated, pastors are asked to inform the Worship Office if they provide regular *extraordinary form* celebrations.

NB: The names of the priests who have been certified by the committee mentioned above will be made public so that these priests will be available to celebrate in this *extraordinary form* if local priests are not available.

3) The *extraordinary form* of Mass may be celebrated on **Sundays** only if the following conditions are met:

a) A stable group of faithful have made such a request.

- b) Only one such Mass is celebrated. It is not the intention of *Summorum Pontificum* to arbitrarily take one of the current Sunday Masses and substitute Mass in the *extraordinary form* merely for the sake of variety.
 - c) The priest celebrant meets all of the qualifications laid out above (1a, 1b, 1c).
- 4) If the *extraordinary form* of Mass is celebrated, the liturgy is celebrated according to the calendar and *Lectioary* of the 1962 Roman Missal. However, “in Masses celebrated in the presence of the people in accordance with the Missal of Bl. John XXIII (1962 Roman Missal), the readings may be given in the vernacular using approved texts.” (SP, Art. 6)
- 5) The celebration of the *sacraments* in the *extraordinary form* may take place if:
- a) The celebrant has demonstrated the ability to do so. He must meet the same qualifications as laid out in 1a, 1b, 1c.
 - b) The faithful request such sacramental celebrations (i.e. Baptism, Marriage, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick) to be celebrated in the *extraordinary form* of the sacraments. (SP, Art. 5.3)
 - c) The pastor has granted permission after attentively examining the various ramifications of such celebrations. (SP, Art. 9.1)

For further study and information, a translation of the text of the Motu Proprio, along with the accompanying letter of the Holy Father can be found at the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy (BCL) website: www.usccb.org/liturgy. Additionally, the May/June 2007 BCL Newsletter was dedicated to providing information regarding the interpretation and implementation of the Motu Proprio. This newsletter can also be found on the same website.