

Liturgical Celebrations in the *forma extraordinaria*

The Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI on July 7, 2007, aims to preserve a “precious treasure” of our liturgical heritage; to show a welcoming spirit and pastoral generosity to the faithful who desire to celebrate the liturgy in this way; and to promote reconciliation at the heart of the Church.

Regarding the implementation of the Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, and the most recent instruction *Universae Ecclesiae* of The Pontifical Commission *Ecclesia Dei* (April 30, 2011) in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, the following is set forth:

1. “The faculty to celebrate *sine populo* (or with the participation of only one minister) in the *forma extraordinaria* of the Roman Rite is given by the Motu Proprio to all priests, whether secular or religious. For such celebrations therefore, priests, by provision of the Motu Proprio *Summorum Pontificum*, do not require any special permission from their Ordinaries or superiors” (UE #23).

2. “With respect to the question of the necessary requirements for a priest to be held *idoneus* (‘qualified’) to celebrate in the *forma extraordinaria*, the following is hereby stated:

a. Every Catholic priest who is not impeded by canon law is to be considered *idoneus* (‘qualified’) for the celebration of the Holy Mass in the *forma extraordinaria*.

b. Regarding the use of the Latin language, a basic knowledge is necessary allowing the priest to pronounce the words correctly and understand their meaning.

c. Regarding knowledge of the execution of the Rite, priests are presumed to be qualified who present themselves spontaneously to celebrate the *forma extraordinaria*, and have celebrated it previously.” (UE #20)

3. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, a priest may demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Latin language, as well as a familiarity with the celebration of the Rite *forma extraordinaria* and proper knowledge of the rubrics and form of the Mass and the celebration of the Sacraments – and thus held to be *idoneus* -- in a number of ways:

a. He may present himself before a committee of priests to demonstrate competency in these areas. At least two priests should be present. For the present, the committee will be constituted by Father Timothy Kallaher; Father Earl Fernandes; and Monsignor Frank Lane. Priests interested in

showing competency in this way may contact a member of the committee, who may also assist a priest to gain competency. The committee will state in writing that the priest is held to be *idoneus*.

b. Responding to the initiative outlined in *Universae Ecclesiae* (#21), Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West will develop and offer a course and program to prepare seminarians and priests who desire to celebrate the *forma extraordinaria* to acquire the necessary competence. A priest or seminarian who has participated in and has successfully completed this course on the *forma extraordinaria*, which includes a basic knowledge of Latin, ability to understand the prayers, familiarity with the celebration, form and rubrics of the extraordinary form, and can demonstrate the ability to celebrate the *Usus Antiquior* would be considered *idoneus*.

c. A priest who has undergone similar training through a course offered at another Catholic Institute of learning (seminary, house of studies, or university) or has acquired the necessary training through programs developed specifically for training in the *forma extraordinaria*, and has been approved to celebrate the *forma extraordinaria* by another competent ecclesiastical authority is deemed *idoneus*. The priest must present a letter from competent ecclesiastical authority stating that he is deemed to be *idoneus*.

4. A qualified priest may celebrate the *forma extraordinaria* privately on any weekday and Sunday following the proper liturgical legislation that governs liturgical celebrations.

5. For the public celebration of Mass according to the Motu Proprio and the Instruction, a *coetus fidelium* must exist in a stable manner, which means that people of an individual parish may come together and ask that the liturgy be celebrated in a parish church, oratory, or chapel; or that a group of persons coming from different parishes might gather in a specific parish church, oratory, or chapel for the same purpose.

If a priest receives such a request from a *coetus fidelium* but is unable to fulfill such a request, he should seek assistance from the Archdiocese. For the "good of the faithful" local pastors are asked to respond generously, motivated by a spirit of pastoral zeal, to requests for the celebration of the *forma extraordinaria* even if the group making the request is small (UE #17).

6. The celebration of the other sacraments in the *forma extraordinaria* may take place if:

- The priest is *idoneus*;
- The faithful request such sacramental celebrations; and

- If the pastor has granted such permission after attentively examining the pastoral dimensions of such celebrations.

7. When the *forma extraordinaria* of the Mass is celebrated, the 1962 *Missale Romanum* is to be used; however, the readings can be proclaimed either solely in Latin; in Latin, followed by the vernacular; or in Low Masses, solely in the vernacular, using approved texts. (UE #26). Those elements of liturgical law promulgated after 1962 that are incompatible with the rubrics of the liturgical books of the 1962 Missal do not apply to the celebration of the Extraordinary Form (UE #28).

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