



DAVID J. WALKOWIAK

The Apostolic Letter *Traditionis Custodes* [TC], issued *motu proprio* by Pope Francis on July 16, 2021, reaffirms the responsibility of the diocesan bishop to regulate the liturgical celebrations of his diocese and assigns to him “exclusive competence to authorize the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* in his diocese, according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See” (TC 2). Having considered the guidelines of the *motu proprio* and the pastoral needs of the faithful, I decree the following norms to regulate the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in the Diocese of Grand Rapids:

- 1) It has been determined that neither the priests currently using the 1962 *Missale Romanum* nor the communities they serve “deny the validity and the legitimacy of the liturgical reform as dictated by Vatican Council II and the Magisterium of the Supreme Pontiffs” (TC 3 §1).
- 2) For the spiritual good of the faithful, and to the extent that it may be needed, a dispensation is granted from the provision of TC 3 §2 in order to authorize the use of the 1962 *Missale Romanum* for public celebrations of Mass in the parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These Eucharistic celebrations are permitted on any or all days of the year (TC 3 §3).
- 3) In all public Masses using the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, the readings are to be proclaimed either in Latin followed by the vernacular or, in low Masses, solely in the vernacular, using an approved translation of the Sacred Scripture. Translations of the Scriptures found in previous editions of liturgical books or in hand-missals published with ecclesiastical approval are considered to fulfill the requirement of TC 3 §3.
- 4) Public celebrations of Mass using the 1962 *Missale Romanum*, and the pastoral care of the faithful who attend, are entrusted to the pastor or administrator of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, who is appointed *ex officio* as the bishop’s delegate in these matters (TC 3 §4). In fulfilling this charge, he may freely call upon the cooperation of other priests who enjoy the faculty to celebrate using the 1962 *Missale Romanum*.


- 5) All Masses according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* outside the parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus are to be celebrated without a congregation. The priest celebrant may admit one member of the faithful to the celebration in order to fulfill the norm of Can. 906.
- 6) Priests who already celebrate Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* are authorized to continue to enjoy this faculty upon request (TC 5). Requests should be made by submitting the attached form to the Office of the Bishop. Priests who do not yet celebrate Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* but who wish to do so in the future may obtain the faculty upon verification of competence in the Latin language and the relevant liturgical norms. Priests ordained after July 16, 2021, will not be granted this faculty without prior consultation with the Apostolic See (TC 4). Opportunities to demonstrate linguistic and rubrical competence may be arranged through the Office of the Bishop.
- 7) Public liturgical celebrations using the older *Rituale Romanum* and *Breviarium Romanum* are permitted only in the parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This decree is effective upon promulgation by publication on the webpage of the Office for Worship of the Diocese of Grand Rapids <https://grdiocese.org/ministries/worship>.

Given at the Chancery in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on All Souls' Day, the 2nd day of November 2021.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ 
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids


Rev. Monsignor William H. Duncan, J.C.L.
Ecclesiastical Notary

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CELEBRATE MASS
USING THE MISSALE ROMANUM OF 1962

Traditionis custodes, art. 5, states: "Priests who already celebrate according to the Missale Romanum of 1962 should request from the diocesan Bishop the authorization to continue to enjoy this faculty."

I, Rev. _____, a priest of the (Arch)Diocese of _____, hereby request from the Diocesan Bishop of Grand Rapids the authorization to continue to enjoy the faculty to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum*.

My intention is to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* (please check all that apply):

- ☐ privately;
- ☐ whenever called upon to offer a public Mass according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* in the parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return Address: _____

Please return all requests to the Office of the Bishop, Attn: Gail Welsh, 360 Division Ave., S, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 or email gwelsh@grdiocese.org.