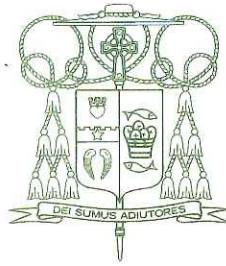


DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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Prot. No: DOSA/44/2021

Decree

Traditional Latin Mass in the Diocese of San Angelo
Most Rev. Michael J. Sis
Bishop of San Angelo
July 22, 2021

On July 16, 2021, the Holy See publicized the *motu proprio* letter of Pope Francis, *Traditionis Custodes*, regarding the celebration of the Holy Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962. For the sake of the spiritual welfare of those who find sustenance in this form of the liturgy, it is my intention to provide for the sacramental and pastoral care of the faithful of this diocese who are accustomed to worshipping at Masses celebrated according to the 1962 Missal.

The Holy Father's apostolic letter does not prohibit the use of the 1962 Roman Missal. Rather, it reassigns to the diocesan bishop the power to restrict celebration of the older Mass, giving him the exclusive competence to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese and to regulate where, when, and by whom these Masses are celebrated.

I have decided that the celebration of Holy Mass according to the Roman Missal of 1962 may continue at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish at 2619 Era Avenue in San Angelo. Currently, those liturgies are celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays. The readings from Scripture in these liturgies are to be proclaimed in the vernacular, using a translation approved for liturgical use by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Anyone is welcome to attend those Masses.

Article 3 §1 of *Traditionis Custodes* states that the bishop is to determine that those groups celebrating the Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal do not deny the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. We have diligently surveyed the people who attend the Latin Mass at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in San Angelo, and their responses indicate that they consider the Vatican II reforms to be valid and legitimate.

In accord with Article 3 §4 of the *motu proprio*, I have appointed Father Josh Gray as my delegate entrusted with the celebration of Traditional Latin Masses according to the Roman Missal of 1962, and with the pastoral care of those who attend those Masses. I have also appointed Father Ryan Rojo as my secondary delegate to assist or substitute for Father Gray as needed.

Article 3 §2 of the decree states that the locations where the people gather for the Traditional Latin Mass are not to be in the parochial churches. At this point in time, however, we are not able to find a suitable alternative venue for this Mass. Therefore, it will continue in the church building of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in San Angelo. The key factors which make this the

most suitable place are its location, layout, and cry room, as well as the availability of a priest who has the proper training, time, and willingness to serve the pastoral and spiritual needs of those who attend.

Canon 87 §1 of the *Code of Canon Law* states that “a diocesan bishop, whenever he judges that it contributes 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.” Based on this canon, and due to the lack of suitable alternative locations for these Masses, I dispense from the observance of Article 3 §2 in *Traditionis Custodes* with regard to parochial churches.

The diocesan bishop is the moderator, promoter, and guardian of the liturgical life of the local diocese. It is up to the bishop to regulate liturgical celebrations and to foster the dignified celebration of the Eucharist throughout the diocese. In light of the recent *motu proprio Traditionis Custodes*, and in the context of the particular circumstances of the Diocese of San Angelo, I believe that the above approach will foster a vibrant spirit of ecclesial communion in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who seek more information about the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in San Angelo may contact their parish office at 325-651-4633 or see their website at www.stmargaretsa.org.

This decree remains in force until I revoke it. Given at San Angelo, Texas, on July 22, 2021, in the name of the Most Holy Trinity.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Sis".

Most Rev. Michael J. Sis
Bishop of San Angelo

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Wyse".

Michael Wyse
Chancellor