



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

Friday 16 July, 2021

Dear Brother Priests,

Today the Holy Father issued the Apostolic Letter *motu proprio*, *Traditionis custodes*, which provides the Church a new opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the celebration of the Mass and the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. *Traditionis custodes* provides for new liturgical norms for the celebration of the Mass using liturgical books issued before 1970.

I will prayerfully reflect upon *Traditionis custodes* in the coming weeks to ensure we understand fully the Holy Father's intentions and consider carefully how they are to be realized in the Archdiocese of Washington. In the interim, I hereby grant the faculty to those who celebrate the Mass using the liturgical books issued before 1970 to continue to do so this weekend and in the days to come, until further guidance is forthcoming.

I ask this weekend that you keep the Holy Father's request for unity in our Church in your prayers. Please also pray for me, your brother priests, and the lay faithful who desire to know Christ more perfectly through the celebration of the Mass.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

✠ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,
Archbishop of Washington