



## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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*November 1, 2014*  
*The Solemnity of All Saints*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Pontiff Emeritus, on July 7, 2007, promulgated his *Apostolic Letter*, in the form of a “Motu Proprio”, *Summorum Pontificum* (The care of the *Supreme Pontiffs* for Divine Worship): **On the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970**. In this Apostolic Letter, Pope Benedict explained the two forms for celebrating the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Holy Mass: an *ordinary form*, as contained in the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum*, which is the liturgy now commonly celebrated in our churches, and an *extraordinary form*, which is the rite contained in the *Missale Romanum* promulgated by Pope Saint Pius V and published again by Saint John XXIII, and which is the Latin Mass celebrated prior to the reform of 1970 under the pontificate of Pope Paul VI. Pope Benedict XVI pointed out that these two forms make up the Liturgy of the one Roman Rite.

Noting the above, the Holy Father asked the Diocesan Bishops throughout the world, since each is the moderator of the liturgy in his own Diocese (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 22; Letter of Pope Benedict XVI Accompanying the Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum*, p.3), to make the *extraordinary form* available to the faithful where there is “a certain degree of liturgical formation and some knowledge of the Latin language.” (Ibid., p.2). Our Holy Father noted that the present vernacular celebration of

the Sacred Liturgy “continues to be the normal form—the *Forma ordinaria* – of the Eucharistic Liturgy.” (Ibid., p.1).

In making the *extraordinary form* available (1962 *Roman Missal*), Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged that: “Many people who clearly accepted the binding character of the Second Vatican Council, and were faithful to the Pope and the Bishops, nonetheless also desired to recover the form of the sacred liturgy that was dear to them. This occurred above all because in many places celebrations were not faithful to the prescriptions of the new Missal, but the latter actually was understood as authorizing or even requiring creativity, which frequently lead to deformations of the liturgy which were hard to bear.” (Ibid., p. 2).

In essence, with this *Apostolic Letter* Pope Benedict XVI called for a renewed solemn and reverential celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Whether celebrated in the *ordinary form* or the *extraordinary form*, the Eucharist is for us the real presence of Jesus Christ in our midst, His very body, blood, soul and divinity. As One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, Pope Benedict XVI, the then Supreme Pastor and Vicar of Christ, was asking “that the Church of Christ offer worthy worship to the Divine Majesty ‘for the praise and glory of his name’ and ‘for the good of all his Holy Church.’” (*Summorum Pontificum*, p. 1).

The celebration of Holy Mass in the *extraordinary form* has been made available to the faithful of the Diocese of Rochester on a regular basis following the Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, given as a “*Motu Proprio*”, on July 2, 1988. This Mass has been celebrated on Sunday afternoons at Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester. Saint Stanislaus parishioners have very graciously welcomed those attending the

*extraordinary form* of the Mass and for this I am most grateful to Father Roman Caly, the Pastor, and the entire faith community at Saint Stanislaus.

However, since those attending Mass in the *extraordinary form* has remained a significant, enduring number of persons, consideration has been given to scheduling the Mass at a more opportune time on Sunday mornings. Saint Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit, New York, a member church of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, under the pastoral supervision of Father Paul F. English, C.S.B., was recognized as being able to accommodate the celebration of Mass in the *extraordinary form* on Sunday mornings at 11:15 AM. In addition, Holy Mass also will be offered at 9:00 AM in the *ordinary form* for the faithful. Father Dennis M. Bonsignore will offer both the *ordinary form* of the Mass and the *extraordinary form* of the Mass.

This initiative will need to be sustained through the generosity of time, talent and treasure offered by the faithful attending these two Masses. The administration of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church will remain with Father English as Pastor of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish. Father Bonsignore also will continue his dedicated sacerdotal service and important pastoral care as Chaplain to the residents at Monroe Community Hospital during the week and provisions are being made to ensure the continuation of the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass at the Hospital.

To offer support to the communities most affected by this hopefully positive initiative, it will be my joy to celebrate Holy Mass at Monroe Community Hospital on December 24 at 11:00 AM, Saint Thomas the Apostle Church on Christmas day at 9:00 AM, to preside *in choro* at the 11:15 AM Mass, celebrate Holy Mass at Christ the King Church (Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Parish) on the Solemnity of the Epiphany on

January 4, 2015 at 10:00 AM and at Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church on the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord on January 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM. I sincerely hope that in the true spirit of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Sacrament of Unity, this pastoral outreach will strengthen the Catholic community in Irondequoit.

Assuring you of my prayers and asking a remembrance in your good prayers, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*  
*The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano*  
*Bishop of Rochester*