

DIRECTIONS TO PASTORAL MINISTERS OF THE DIOCESE OF SPOKANE ON THE PROMULGATION OF THE THIRD EDITION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL:

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

The Holy See, the USCCB and the other Conferences of Bishops throughout the world have worked diligently for a number of years to continue the renewal of the worship of the Church through the Sacred Liturgy. Eighteen months ago the draft of the New *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* was made public and a study translation was done for the English speaking world. Today, March 22, 2002, the Latin text of the Roman Missal was finally published and promulgated by the Vatican at a new conference in Rome and the norms of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* become effective immediately.

I ask that all priests observe the small number of changes in the rubrics with a spirit of unity and fidelity. The American appendix was not referenced with the publication of the new Missal and so the general norms for the United States do not yet reflect the proper implementation of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* in our country. I am sure this information will be available in the near future.

The *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani*'s most significant impact is its ambiance. There are very few significant rubrical changes. The spirit of the instruction calls forth a deeper understanding of the indispensable role of the priest. It encourages the assembly to see its role as members of Christ and the Church rather than as individuals such that common texts, common posture, and common activity unite us in mind and heart for communal worship. It speaks of a unique hospitality manifested in *communio* and *caritas* for those whom Christ has called to his supper.

The most challenging element of its directions concern the rites of communion. The primary principle is that those who minister, minister what they themselves in grace have received. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are thus seen as ministers who act by nature of their role in assisting the ministry of the one Christ who celebrates the sacred mysteries. The guidance of the companion document from the USCCB will help us to more faithfully carry out the rites of Communion, especially when Communion is given under both forms.

The *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* mandates the Conference of Bishops to make a number of directive decisions about the form and context of the celebration of Mass. These mandates have been implemented by the USCCB and will be found in the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* as it is published for the United States.

The *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* and the directives from the USCCB identify a number of issues to be determined by the local Bishop. So that we can begin with a very clear unity in the implementation of the *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* I hereby set forth my directives for the Diocese of Spokane on these matters:

1. #107 Functions of Altar Servers

In the Diocese of Spokane, Altar servers may be male or female. They should be persons who have completed the sacraments of initiation. They are to be instructed and formed in a spirit of service to the whole Church. Their vesture is ordinarily a white alb. Local pastors are responsible for the scope and dimension of their service according to the universal norms.

2. #202 Discipline for Concelebration

In the Diocese of Spokane, Concelebration is permitted whenever a priest desires to take part as a concelebrant in the celebration of Mass. Concelebration is a sign of the unity of the priesthood. It is the proper response of a priest at the celebration of the Eucharist. It is not a sign of solemnity, but of spiritual

service. Concelebrants can fulfill the role of a deacon if there is no deacon present, but the presence of multiple priests should not intrude on the celebration or the primary role of the one who presides.

When there are significant numbers of concelebrants, those directing the liturgy should take special care that the communion of the concelebrants not delay the communion rite in any way. When there are many concelebrants, it is usually advisable to distribute communion to them in two stations apart from the altar of sacrifice.

3. #283 Norms for communion under both kinds

In the Diocese of Spokane, communion under both kinds is permitted and encouraged at all celebrations of the Eucharist. The presider must carefully judge whether there are circumstances which would suggest that this is not appropriate, e.g. a celebration with extreme numbers, in an extraordinary place, or when suitably trained ministers are not available.

4. #291-294 Use of local commission for norms for construction, remodeling and restoration

In the Diocese of Spokane, all programs for new construction, remodeling, restoration or reconfiguring a worship space must be reviewed by the Diocesan Building Commission. If there are significant questions about the appropriate nature of changes in the worship space, this matter must be referred to the Bishop who will consult with the Liturgical Commission.

5. #315 Judgment of the placement of the tabernacle

In the Diocese of Spokane, in any new construction, in any remodeling, or renovation of worship space, prior to the beginning of the public presentation of the plans, the pastor must seek written direction from the Bishop regarding the placement of the tabernacle in the Church. This written direction will provide guidance for the project. Any need to deviate from this direction must be given in written form from the Bishop.

6. #393 Diocesan Calendar

In the Diocese of Spokane, the Calendar for celebration of feasts and seasons for the United States is changed only for the following:

The feast of the Dedication of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes
The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of our Diocese

Finally, the Diocese will sponsor a workshop for a better understanding and implementation of the new *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani* as soon as we can possibly arrange it. I would expect universal attendance by all priests and deacons, diocesan and religious, those involved in parochial and non parochial ministry.

+Bishop William S. Skylstad
March 22, 2002