



A message to the faithful of the archdiocese from Archbishop Michael Jackels

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Statement from Archbishop Jackels on Traditionis Custodes

Our Holy Father Francis (may God preserve him) issued a new norm, limiting the use of the extraordinary form of Holy Mass (EF), that is, as celebrated before Vatican II.

From now on, it's up to the local bishop to decide where, when and by whom the EF is celebrated, though within certain limits.

It's still possible to celebrate the EF, just not in a parish church (there is unfortunately no explanation for that restriction, nor a suggestion as to a suitable alternative).

Locally, the EF is celebrated at Immaculate Conception parish, Cedar Rapids. Efforts will be made, guided by the new norm, to provide for those folks.

The Pope's decision is not arbitrary, but the fruit of collaboration, consultation, and consensus with the world's bishops on the matter in question.

When Pope Benedict wore the shoes of Peter, he thought having both an extraordinary and ordinary form of Mass wouldn't foster division; sadly, it has in some places.

Pope Francis acted well within his authority. And there are no grounds to challenge his noble intention: to press on ever more in the constant search of ecclesial communion.

In response, consider St. Catherine of Siena, who prayed for unity, and urged all to behave towards the Pope as "sweet Christ on earth," whether they liked him or not.

She also taught that obedience is the one thing God can't have unless we first give it, and so it is the only true gift we can give, and the one thing God desires.

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