

Memo to: Clergy of the Diocese  
From: Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, Bishop of Sioux Falls  
Subject: Motu Proprio  
Date: July 7, 2007

Today His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, issued an *Apostolic Letter Given Motu Proprio on the Use of the Roman Liturgy Prior to the Reform of 1970*. In it, he notes that the *Roman Missal* promulgated by Pope Paul VI, commonly referred to as the *Novus Ordo*, is the “ordinary expression” of the prayer of the Church, while the *Roman Missal* promulgated by Pope Pius V and by Blessed John XXIII, commonly referred to as the “Latin Mass”, or the “Traditional Mass”, or even the “Tridentine Mass”, is the “extraordinary expression” of that prayer. They are not, as he decreed, in opposition to one another but are, rather, “two uses of the Roman Rite.” As he notes, “the two forms can be mutually enriching.” I am grateful to the Holy Father for this insight and the accompanying norms.

I encourage you to read the complete text of the Apostolic Letter as well as His Holiness’ moving letter of explanation which provides a broader context and addresses concerns that have been raised. It can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

Pope Benedict XVI indicated that as he asks the bishops to oversee the implementation of this letter, he does so with great trust and hope. He calls us to do so in a way that fosters greater unity. It is a charge which I will take seriously. He notes that this document “is the fruit of much reflection, numerous consultation and prayer.”

Following the example of the Holy Father, we will enter into our own time of reflection, consultation, and prayer. This will prepare us to implement the *Motu Proprio* by its effective date, September 14, 2007, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Because there are practical matters to take into account as we do so, at an appropriate time I will issue a document containing guidance that will seek to implement the *Motu Proprio* in a way that is faithful to it, unifying of the Church, and respectful of the pastoral demands on priests.

Please feel free to contact me directly or Father Justin Wachs, Priest Secretary and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, with your thoughts or suggestions.