



Office of the Vicar General

1316 Peger Road ♦ Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 ♦ (907) 374-9504 ♦ rfath@cbna.org

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Regarding the Celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass

19 July 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last week our Holy Father, Pope Francis, released a document regulating the use of the Roman Missal of 1962, also known as the Tridentine or Traditional Latin Mass. The *motu proprio Traditionis Custodes* and its accompanying letter contain legislation to be observed when celebrating the Tridentine Mass. While the document places restrictions on the celebration of the Tridentine Mass, we want to assure the faithful of the Diocese of Fairbanks who find sustenance in the Extraordinary Form that we will continue its celebration so that your spiritual needs are met. Father Dismas and I have been given the assurance of Bishop Zielinski that we will continue to offer the Latin Mass as often as we are able given the many needs of such a large diocese.

It is important for all of us to keep in mind that whatever form the Mass takes and regardless of our personal preferences, the Sacred Liturgy remains the one, true Sacrifice offered for all. Whether we attend the Traditional Latin Mass or the Novus Ordo celebrated in the vernacular, Jesus Christ is made present body, blood, soul and divinity to strengthen and sustain us on our journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven. In a diocese with a limited number of priests, we who live in the Fairbanks/North Pole area should be grateful that the Mass is so readily available to us daily, especially knowing that our brothers and sisters in our remote village communities go weeks or months without the Mass in any form.

The Mass in all its forms continues to be the source and summit of our lives as the Christian faithful. However it is offered and when it is offered we should be attentive to its proper celebration with the reverence our Lord deserves in the Holy Sacrifice. May the Holy Eucharist remain our solace and our strength.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Robert Fath, J.C.L.
Vicar General