

QUATTUOR ABHINC ANNOS • *Promulgated by Pope John Paul II (3 October 1984)*

E.ME DOMINE: Quattuor abhinc annos, iubente Summo Pontifice Ioanne Paulo II, universae Ecclesiae Episcopi invitati sunt ad relationem exhibendam:

- circa modum, quo sacerdotes et christifideles in suis dioecesibus Missale auctoritate Papae Pauli VI promulgatum recepissent, statutis Concilii Vaticani II rite obsequentes;
- circa difficultates in liturgica instauratione exsequenda evenientes;
- circa renisus forte superandos.

Exitus consultationis notus factus est omnibus Episcopis (cf. *Notitiae*, n. 185, decembris 1981). Eorum responsionibus attentis, fere in totum solutum visum est problema illorum sacerdotum atque christifidelium, qui ritui “Tridentino” nuncupato inhaerentes manserant. —Cum autem problema idem perduret, ipse Summus Pontifex, coetibus istis obsecundare desiderans, Episcopis dioecesanis facultatem concedit utendi Indulto, quo sacerdotes et christifideles, qui in petitione proprio Episcopo exhibenda explicite indicabuntur, Missam celebrare valeant Missale Romanum adhibendo iuxta editionem typicam annm 1962, servatis autem normis, quae sequuntur:

- a) Sine ambiguitate etiam publice constet talem sacerdotem, et tales fideles nullam partem habere cum iis qui legitimam vim doctrinalemque rectitudinem Missalis Romani, anno 1970 a Paulo VI Romano Pontifice promulgati, in dubium vocant.
- b) Haec celebratio fiat tantummodo ad utilitatem illorum coetuum qui eam petunt; item in ecclesiis et oratoriis quae Episcopus dioecesanus deputaverit (non autem in templis paroecialibus, nisi Episcopus in casibus extraordinariis id concesserit); iisque diebus atque condicionibus ab ipso Episcopo, sive per modum consuetudinis, sive per actus, adprobatis.
- c) Huiusmodi celebratio secundum Missale anni 1962 fiat et quidem lingua latina.
- d) Nulla habeatur commixtio inter ritus et textus alterutrius Missalis.
- e) Unusquisque Episcopus hanc Congregationem certiore faciet de concessionibus ab ipso datis atque, expleto anno ab hoc Indulto tributo, de exitu quem eius applicatio obtinuerit. Concessio huiusmodi, sollicitudinis signum qua Pater communis omnes suos prosequitur filios, adhibenda erit sine ullo praeiudicio liturgiae instaurationis observandae in vita uniuscuiusque Communitatis ecclesialis.

Iuvat me vero hac uti opportunitate me E.tiae Tuae Rev.mae ad dictissimum in Domino profitendi.

Ex aedibus Congregationis pro Cultu Divino,
die 3 Octobris 1984.

A. MAYER, O.S.B., Archiep. tit. Satrianensis, Pro-Praefectus
VERGIILIO NOÈ, Archiep. tit. Voncariensis, a Seeretis

* **Prasidibus conferentiarum Episcoporum missa**

MOST REV'D EXCELLENCY: Four years ago, by order of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II, the Bishops of the whole Church were invited to present a report:

- concerning the way in which the priests and faithful of their dioceses had received the Missal promulgated in 1970 by the authority of Pope Paul VI in accordance with the decisions of the Second Vatican Council;
- concerning the difficulties arising in the implementation of the liturgical reform;
- concerning possible resistance that may have arisen.

The results of the consultation were sent to all the bishops (cf. *Notitiae*, n. 185, December 1981). On the basis of their replies, it appeared that the problem of priests and faithful holding to the so-called “Tridentine” rite was almost completely solved. —Since, however, the same problem continues, the Supreme Pontiff, in a desire to meet the wishes of these groups, grants to diocesan bishops the possibility of using an indult whereby priests and faithful, who shall be expressly indicated in the letter of request to be presented to their own bishop, may be able to celebrate Mass by using the Roman Missal according to the 1962 edition, but under the following conditions:

- a) That it be made publicly clear beyond all ambiguity that such priests and their respective faithful in no way share the positions of those who call into question the legitimacy and doctrinal exactitude of the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1970.
- b) Such celebration must be made only for the benefit of those groups that request it; in church and oratories indicated by the bishop (not, however, in parish churches, unless the bishop permits it in extraordinary cases); and on the days and under the conditions fixed by the bishop either habitually, or in individual cases.
- c) These celebrations must be according to the 1962 Missal and in Latin.
- d) There must be no interchanging of texts and rites of the two Missals.
- e) Each bishop must inform this Congregation of the concessions granted to him, and at the end of the year from the granting of this indult, he must report the result of its application. This concession, indicative of the Holy Father’s solicitude for his children, must be used in such a way as not to prejudice the faithful observance of the liturgical reform in the life of the respective ecclesial communities.

I am pleased to avail myself of this occasion to express to Your Excellency my sentiments of deep esteem.

From the Office of the Congregation for Divine Worship,
October 3, 1984

+ A. MAYER, O.S.B., Archbishop of Satriano, Pro-Prefect
+ VIRGIILIO NOÈ, Titular Archbishop of Voncaria, Secretary

* **Sent to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences**