



DECREE OF PROMULGATION

ESTABLISHING REQUIRED PROCEDURES FOR THE MODIFICATION OF PARISH MASS SCHEDULES IN THE DIOCESE OF ERIE

WHEREAS parishes and pastors, in an attempt to make the celebration of the Eucharist widely accessible to the faithful while observing the precepts of the law occasionally find it necessary to modify parish Mass schedules;

WHEREAS changes to parish Mass schedules are known by experience to require careful pastoral attention:

THEREFORE, having consulted with the Presbyteral Council in this regard, **I hereby decree as particular law that the following steps are obligatory for the modification of parish Mass schedules in the Diocese of Erie:**

1. The Pastor must first consult with the Vicar Forane regarding the intention to consider modifying the Mass schedule, so that the Vicar Forane may provide counsel to the Pastor, especially in regard to how any modification might interact with the schedule of other parishes in the deanery;
2. After having heard the Vicar Forane, the pastor must then consult with the parish at large, or with the parish council at a minimum, regarding any proposed modifications to the Mass schedule and he must carefully consider their opinion in the matter;
3. After having consulted both the Vicar Forane and the parish, the Pastor must then write to the Diocesan Bishop to inform him of the proposed change and to obtain the Bishop's *nihil obstat* as verification that all of the above procedures have been fulfilled.
4. Only after having obtained the Bishop's *nihil obstat* may the Pastor put the modified schedule into use.

I direct that this Decree be published and take effect immediately, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Erie
on this 18th day of October, 2019

+Lawrence T. Persico

The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

Christopher J. Singer

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL
Chancellor



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