



Department of Communication

Archdiocese of San Antonio

Statement regarding Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter, *Summorum Pontificum* July 7, 2007

I welcome the action taken in Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter, *Summorum Pontificum*. I believe that it will open up great possibilities for reconciliation and unity with those who have shown great devotion to the Roman Liturgy prior to reform of 1970. I also believe this will provide Catholics with the opportunity to better understand the continuity between the Roman Missal promulgated by Pope Paul VI, the order of the Mass as we ordinarily celebrate it today, and the Roman Missal promulgated by St. Pius V and published and revised again by Blessed John XXIII. It is my hope that our people will be able to more clearly see the growth and progress we have realized since Vatican II, while at the same time preserving the rich heritage and legacy of the Church.

I trust that we will come to better appreciation that, when we are faithful to the Roman Rite and make it a prayerful celebration of adoration and thanksgiving to God, it will always be a source of joy and peace, regardless of the language in which we celebrate it.

I have a great love for the Mass as we ordinarily celebrate it today. It meets the mandate of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, to simplify the rites and "more readily achieve the devout, active participation of the faithful." The reverent celebration of the Mass brings people to a rich appreciation of their faith and unites our parish communities in love for the Eucharist.

The 1962 Mass has been celebrated in San Antonio for many years, and has been a special blessing to the archdiocese. Let us follow the leadership of the Holy Father in the spirit of unity and reconciliation, while meeting the varied pastoral needs of the people of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

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