



## DECREE

### REVISING THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITHFUL DURING THE COMMUNION RITE OF THE MASS

WHEREAS the current edition of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* was promulgated in Latin by the Holy See in the year 2000, and the English translation of the same was approved by the Holy See in 2003, together with adaptations approved for use in the United States of America;

Whereas among the approved adaptations for use in the United States is the following: “In the Dioceses of the United States of America, they [the faithful], should kneel ...after the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) unless the Diocesan Bishop determines otherwise,” (paragraph 42);

Whereas in 2003, the then Bishop of Erie, the Most Reverend Donald W. Trautman, determined that the faithful in the Diocese of Erie would stand instead of kneel after the *Agnus Dei* and throughout the Communion Rite;

Whereas the practice in the Diocese of Erie differs from the practice of most dioceses in the United States, and it is increasingly difficult for many parishioners to stand for long periods of time during the distribution of Holy Communion, and across the diocese countless parishioners – often the majority in many parishes - on their own accord have already returned to the practice of kneeling after the *Agnus Dei*;

Whereas in light of the above, I judge it pastorally expedient and an effective sign of our communion with our neighboring dioceses that we return to the practice approved by the Holy See for use in the United States;

THEREFORE, in accord with paragraph 42 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, I direct that the faithful in the Diocese of Erie shall kneel at Mass following the conclusion of the *Agnus Dei*. Those who receive Holy Communion may, upon returning to their place, either kneel or sit according to their choice until the beginning of the prayer after Communion, at which time all stand.

I direct that this Decree be published and take effect on the First Sunday of Advent, which begins at 4:00 p.m. on November 27, 2021, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Chancery  
of the Diocese of Erie  
on this 22nd day of October, 2021

*+Lawrence T. Persico*

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

*Christopher J. Singer*

The Reverend Christopher J. Singer, JCL  
Chancellor

