

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST**

In his apostolic letter regarding use of the Classical Roman Rite, the *motu proprio* “*Summorum Pontificum*,” the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI confirmed, by decree, that the Roman Missal used until 1970, the latest form of which dates of 1962 under Pope John XXIII, was never abrogated and that it is licit to celebrate the Sacrifice of the Mass according to this edition as the extraordinary form of the Liturgy of the Church. Thus, there are two licit forms of the Roman Missal available to all Catholics of the Latin Rite, identified as two expressions of the law of prayer of the Roman Catholic Church – the Missal promulgated by Paul VI in 1969 is termed the “ordinary expression of the law of prayer,” while the Missal of 1962 is the “extraordinary expression of the law of prayer.”

Driven by pastoral concern, Pope Benedict XVI’s *motu proprio* eases restrictions previously governing the use of the Traditional Latin Liturgy. Thus, most significantly, *Summorum Pontificum* replaces conditions for use of the 1962 Missal set down by preceding papal documents on the Traditional Latin Rite issued by Pope John Paul II — *Quattuor abhinc annos* (1984) and *Ecclesia Dei adflicta* (1988) — with a new series of conditions. As decreed in *Summorum Pontificum*, now, any priest of the Latin Rite can celebrate the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal privately and with the possibility of faithful being present, permission from the priest’s bishop no longer being required. In the case of public celebration of the said Missal, permission is required of the authority of the particular entity under which the priest operates. In the case of a diocesan parish, that authority would be the pastor, in the case of a religious community, the local superior, in the case of an oratory, the rector. This authority, however, is exhorted to willingly accede to the requests of those desiring to use the rite of the Roman Missal published in 1962.

The motu proprio also makes clear that the faithful should be given access to all Sacraments of the Catholic Church as administered in the previous form of the Roman Liturgy, and declares it lawful for clerics in holy orders to also use the Roman Breviary of 1962.

In Article 3, mention is made specifically of communities or institutes of consecrated life, and societies of apostolic life that may desire to use the Roman Liturgy of 1962 on a habitual or permanent basis. It declares that this is allowed and that such a matter would be decided upon by the major superiors of the particular entity, according to the norm of law and the particular law and statutes governing it.

The Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest, a society of apostolic life of diocesan right, founded in 1990 is one such community already making permanent and habitual use of the 1962 Liturgical books, already established under the provisions of Pope John Paul II's motu proprio *Ecclesia Dei*, and whose status is confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI's current document. Its formation, and that of several other such groups, reflects the reality pointed out by the Holy Father his letter to bishops accompanying the motu proprio: "In the meantime it has clearly been demonstrated that young persons too have discovered this liturgical form, felt its attraction and found in it a form of encounter with the Mystery of the Most Holy Eucharist, particularly suited to them." Most priests of the Institute of Christ the King are in their thirties, and its Seminary, located in Florence, is peopled by over 60 young men in their twenties.