



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

## ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

Friday 30 July, 2021

Paul King  
President of the Paulus Institute  
*Via E-Mail*

Dear Mr. King,

I received your communication of 29 July, 2021 with all of the pertinent attachments. I acknowledge that my decision to implement the newest *motu proprio Traditionis custodes* of Pope Francis has received initial attention both in support and in opposition. However, as the Holy Father writes in Article 2 of the *motu proprio*:

*"It belongs to the diocesan bishop, as moderator, promoter, and guardian of the whole liturgical life of the particular Church entrusted to him, to regulate the liturgical celebrations of his diocese. Therefore, it is his exclusive competence to authorize the use of the 1962 Roman Missal in his diocese, according to the guidelines of the Apostolic See."*

As I wrote to Archbishop Thomas Gullickson, the liturgy that the Paulus Institute had planned for 14 August, 2021 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, may be celebrated in Latin according to the Roman Missal promulgated by Saint Paul VI and revised by Saint John Paul II. I regret that my decision, which is in conformity with the directives of the *motu proprio*, and which I reaffirm with this letter, not to allow the celebration of this Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal promulgated by Saint John XXIII, has been a source of disappointment.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

✠ Wilton Cardinal Gregory,  
*Archbishop of Washington*

WDG:wdg