



OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Archdiocese of Newark

To: Priests of the Archdiocese of Newark

From: Reverend Thomas A Dente, Director
Office of Divine Worship

Date: March 19, 2009

Re: Celebrating the Extraordinary Form of the Mass

The papal *Motu Proprio* of Benedict XVI, *Summorum Pontificum*, has allowed for a wider use of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass. To read a copy of the *Motu Proprio*, please visit the Vatican website: <http://www.vatican.va/>

In 2008, the Office of Divine Worship conducted a survey of priests, which included a question asking if they would be interested in learning how to celebrate Mass according to the Extraordinary Form, to which some replied in the affirmative.

The *Motu Proprio* was accompanied with a letter from Pope Benedict XVI which stated, "The use of the old Missal presupposes a certain degree of liturgical formation and some knowledge of the Latin language; neither of these is found very often." Therefore, the following items need to be observed by any priest who wishes to celebrate the Extraordinary Form of the Mass:

1. The priest in question must exhibit a working knowledge of the Latin language. It is the personal responsibility of the priest to learn the Latin language prior to learning the Extraordinary Form.
2. Having attained a degree of proficiency in the Latin language, priests desiring to learn how to celebrate Mass in the Extraordinary Form should then contact the rector at Saint Anthony of Padua Chapel, 1360 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, 973.325.2233 to begin instruction.

Thank you.