



DIocese OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

715 Nazareth Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27606-2187 • (919) 821-9702 • Fax: (919) 821-9755

October 19, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you on this effective date for the General Norms for the Celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass in the *Forma Ordinaria* in the Diocese of Raleigh. I express my gratitude for how many of you have taken the time to review the text of these Norms and the bulletin inserts which have served to amplify the theological foundations for the Sacred Liturgy.

I also express my appreciation to our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful who attended the workshops on these Norms held throughout our Diocese. These workshops are now available on DVD from our Diocesan Office of Worship and thus will continue to serve as an important resource for the on-going liturgical formation of our many parish communities on these Norms. Later this month, with our new full-time Director for the Office of Worship, Mr. Gerry Hall, further resources for liturgical formation will be made available to parishes throughout our Diocese.

Through the manifold graces of the spiritual life, our Lord Jesus continually invites each of us into a more profound relationship with Him and His People. As the Church at prayer, may these Norms guide us to celebrate the mystery of our faith with even greater reverence, care, devotion and love. With the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Diocese of Raleigh, may you remain ever close to Her Son so that, having been nourished by Him at Mass, you may be, in words of our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, “witnesses of hope.”

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh