



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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August 4, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church teaches us that the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the centerpiece of our faith, indeed the “source and summit of the Christian life.” To celebrate and preserve these sacred mysteries with renewed reverence, care, devotion and love, I promulgate the document, “General Norms for Celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass in the *Forma Ordinaria*” to be effective in the Diocese of Raleigh on October 19, 2008. This document is found on our Diocesan website, www.dioceseofraleigh.org.

Pastors, together with Pastoral Administrators, parish directors of liturgy and parish liturgy committee members, are asked to implement this document and to study its foundations in the teachings of our Church as part of your parish continuing liturgical formation in Catholic liturgical prayer.

To assist in the formation process, two Diocesan liturgical formation sessions on this document will be offered at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Newton Grove: August 23, 2008 in English and September 20, 2008 in Spanish. A third formation session will be offered at Sacred Heart Cathedral on September 27, 2008 in English. Registration information for these sessions will be provided to each parish. In addition, a series of bulletin inserts will be made available as a resource for the liturgical formation of the faithful on this document and on universal norms of the Church for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy of the Mass.

With the sole desire to draw all of the faithful closer to Jesus through His Word and in the Most Blessed Sacrament, may Our Lord guide us so that the Eucharist may be, in the words of our Holy Father Benedict XVI, “firmly believed, devoutly celebrated, and intensely lived.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh