

SYNOD TOPIC E: PARISH LIFE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH
Liturgy, Sacraments, Prayer, and Devotions

RESOLUTION E-1: Reaffirmation of Resolutions of the First Synod Concerning Parish Life and Spiritual Growth

WHEREAS a number of resolutions concerning Parish life and spiritual growth were adopted by the First Synod of the Diocese of Juneau, which met in September 2000, and were subsequently approved by Bishop Michael Warfel; and

WHEREAS these resolutions continue to be useful and relevant to the life of the Diocese of Juneau and the implementation of the New Evangelization; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that the following resolutions adopted by the First Synod of the Diocese and approved by Bishop Michael Warfel be reaffirmed with incorporated changes:

1. That the Diocese of Juneau promote and stress the importance of the obligation of the people of God to gather each Sunday for Mass or communion service, and to sponsor an effective training program for leaders of prayer at communion services.
2. That the Diocese as a whole, and the individual parishes and missions, attempt to compose a comprehensive history of the Catholic Church in Southeast Alaska. A diocesan necrology recording the lives and ministries of all the religious, bishops, priests, and deacons who have served in Southeast Alaska should be compiled for use at liturgical celebrations; and appropriate corrections should be made to the Diocesan Ordo to ensure that it conforms to the necrology.
3. That parish liturgy committees be comprised individuals and include people from all generations, cultures, and walks of life.

4. That the Diocese of Juneau be mindful of and open to the sacred traditions, regalia, symbols, and music of its diverse cultural communities at its liturgical celebrations and at synods, institutes, and other diocesan gatherings.

5. That the Diocese of Juneau establish clear diocesan norms for an adequate and pastorally realistic preparatory catechesis and mystagogia for the Christian initiation of adults, infant Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, and Reconciliation.

RESOLUTION E-2: The Shrine of Saint Therese

WHEREAS the Shrine of Saint Therese in Juneau has as a major purpose the promotion of the New Evangelization by serving as a center of spiritual formation, renewal, and catechesis for the Diocese of Juneau; and

WHEREAS traveling to the Shrine can be cost prohibitive for those who do not live in Juneau; and

WHEREAS the Executive Director of the Shrine is willing and able to travel to parishes and missions of the Diocese to deliver retreats or to train a team of others to do so; and

WHEREAS it is necessary that the Shrine be a sacred location conducive to prayer and reflection, where Catholics can reflect on their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church; and

WHEREAS a careful balance must be maintained whereby the Shrine is supported by the revenue from rentals and donations in order to operate, but does not become inaccessible to individuals and for diocesan, parish, and mission events; and

WHEREAS the current Shrine buildings have significant limitations for the facilitation of large group retreats; and

WHEREAS a special witness to the Church's preferential option for the poor would be offered by interment at the Shrine columbarium free of charge of homeless persons and others living in material poverty who otherwise could not afford to be interred there; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Shrine of Saint Therese participate in the work of the New Evangelization by giving priority to evangelizing retreats for inactive Catholics and seekers, as well as retreats intended to form disciples for the mission of the Church.
2. That, in addition to a retreat program operating at the Shrine of Saint Therese, the Shrine develop an itinerant retreat program under which retreats will be held in communities of Southeast Alaska other than Juneau.
3. That the leadership of the Shrine of Saint Therese strive to foster, encourage, and support an atmosphere of reverence, recollection, and prayer on the Shrine property, most particularly by seeking a full-time monastic religious community or resident priest.
4. That the Shrine of Saint Therese develop a scholarship fund and a system of in-kind service opportunities to assist Catholic groups and individuals attend retreats at the Shrine who might not otherwise be able to afford to do so; and that it explore ways to promote the use of the Shrine for official events of the Diocese, parishes, and missions at reduced cost.
5. That the Board of the Shrine of Saint Therese undertake an inquiry to determine the need for and the feasibility of the construction of a facility for large retreats, group activities, and receptions at the Shrine.
6. That a certain number of burial spaces at the Shrine of Saint Therese columbarium, to be determined by the Bishop of Juneau in consultation with the Shrine Board, be set aside for the

interment of those who could otherwise not afford to be laid to rest there, especially the homeless and others living in material poverty.

7. That planning for and ministry at the Shrine of Saint Therese take account of and serve the large number of tourists and transient visitors who come to the Shrine each summer.

RESOLUTION E-3: Retreats, Days of Recollection, and Other Gatherings to Promote Spiritual Growth.

WHEREAS many Catholics of the Diocese of Juneau have expressed the desire for a wider availability to them of retreats, days of recollection, and similar gatherings offering the opportunity for spiritual growth; and

WHEREAS the Diocese, due to the geography of Southeast Alaska, faces special challenges in providing such opportunities, particularly in the smaller parishes and mission; and

WHEREAS the availability of new forms of communications technology may alleviate some of these challenges; and

WHEREAS many members of the Church in Southeast Alaska have benefited from the ACTS movement; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the clergy, religious, and other ministers of the Diocese seek ways to provide more retreats, days of recollection, and similar gatherings offering the opportunity for spiritual growth to people throughout the Diocese, with an emphasis on making these gatherings accessible and affordable to all. Particular consideration should be given to annual gatherings like the former diocesan Institute.

2. That, in carrying out this purpose, special consideration be given to the use of newly available forms of communications technology, to allow participation in such gatherings by those who live in other communities for whom travel to the physical site of a gathering might be difficult.

3. That the ACTS movement, as it has recently been reformed and restructured, be promoted throughout the Diocese as an instrument of the New Evangelization, assisting in the process of forming intentional disciples, open to the lifelong work of conversion to Christ, who will enrich the lives of their parishes and missions as instruments of Christ's presence in Southeast Alaska.

RESOLUTION E-4: Diocesan Standards for the Extraordinary Ministry of Holy Communion

WHEREAS the ministry of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, both during the Mass and in ministry to the sick and homebound, is of ever increasing importance in the life of the Catholic Church in Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS the reverent custody and care of the Most Blessed Sacrament is a matter of the highest importance in the Church; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that the Diocese adopt uniform standards and training for the extraordinary ministry of Holy Communion that promote conformity with the laws of the Church governing proper care and distribution of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the care of the sacramental needs of the people of the Diocese.

RESOLUTION E-5: Liturgical Matters

WHEREAS the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Holy Eucharist, is at the heart of the entire life of the Catholic Church and its members, and therefore of the New Evangelization; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for the fruitful celebration of the liturgy throughout the Diocese of Juneau that the norms applicable to its celebration be uniformly observed; and

WHEREAS certain enhancements in the celebration of the liturgy or the design of liturgical space are worthy of consideration; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the Bishop of Juneau and the pastors of parishes and missions make efforts to ensure that the universal and diocesan norms concerning the celebration of the liturgy are faithfully observed throughout the Diocese, and that all liturgical ministers receive appropriate formation concerning these norms, especially the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and the *Liturgical Norms for the Diocese of Juneau*.
2. That all construction, renovation, and remodeling of Church buildings, especially the spaces used for the celebration of the liturgy, be subject to the direct oversight of the Diocesan Bishop in order to ensure conformity with all applicable norms concerning such structures; and that the selection and arrangement of Church furnishings and images and articles used in the celebration of the liturgy conform to applicable norms and the highest affordable standards of liturgical art and design.
3. That the Diocese of Juneau establish the policy that the tabernacle in which the Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved in each Church building be located in the main worship space so as to promote reverence toward the Real Presence of Christ and for the holiness of the worship space itself.
4. That an attitude of quiet reverence be encouraged within the worship spaces of each Church building in the Diocese, especially immediately before and after each celebration of the liturgy.

5. That parishioners serving as liturgical ministers be encouraged to adopt a more formal and modest style of dress, in order to enhance an environment of solemnity and reverence during the liturgy.
6. That the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday and its accompanying devotions be promoted in each parish and mission on Sunday within the Octave of Easter, provided that this observance not detract from the primacy of the celebration of the Easter Triduum and Octave.
7. That pastors consider the retention or reestablishment of the ringing of altar bells at the time of the Epiklesis and of the Consecration of the Mass, recognizing that this is an optional practice.
8. That opportunities be provided within the Diocese of Juneau for the celebration of Mass in the Latin language in both the ordinary and extraordinary forms, together with the use of Gregorian chant in these celebrations; and in accordance with other appropriate cultural and religious expressions.
9. That training and formation opportunities be offered to liturgical musicians and music ministers to help enhance their ability to carry out their ministry and to support them in their generous efforts.
10. That all Catholics of the Diocese of Juneau be introduced to and encouraged to pray all or part of the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning and Evening Prayer, either individually or with others.
11. That all parishes in the Diocese of Juneau whose facilities do not provide the faithful the option of receiving the Sacrament of Penance anonymously be renovated or otherwise brought into compliance in accord with canon law.
12. That the option for kneeling will be made available for Holy Communion.

13. That, where possible, Sunday liturgies be periodically consolidated to include and celebrate the language and traditions of the diverse cultural communities of our Diocese.

RESOLUTION E-6: Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest

WHEREAS a number of parishes and missions of the Diocese of Juneau do not have an assigned resident priest; and

WHEREAS this situation is often complicated by severe weather and other obstacles to travel within Southeast Alaska; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this situation, these parishes and missions are able to celebrate Sunday Mass only on an occasional basis, and are not able to celebrate Mass on most Sundays; and

WHEREAS it is very rare for a priest to be unavailable for the celebration of Sunday Mass in the larger parishes of the Diocese; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. Whenever a parish or mission in the Diocese does not have a priest available to celebrate Sunday Mass, the people of that parish or mission should still gather regularly on Sundays for a Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest, choosing among the options available in the liturgical book governing such celebrations. While such celebrations are not a substitute for the celebration of the Mass, which is the source and summit of Catholic Christian life, they should be carried out with the same reverence as is appropriate for Mass celebrations, especially when the reserved Eucharist is to be distributed in Holy Communion.

2. The people of the larger parishes in the Diocese are encouraged to support the occasional travel of their priests to celebrate Sunday Mass in smaller parishes and missions which would

otherwise lack such celebrations, foregoing the opportunity to celebrate Sunday Mass in their own larger parish and gathering instead for a Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest.

RESOLUTION E-7: Friday Abstinence from Meat

WHEREAS all Catholics are called to penance and conversion by virtue of Baptism; and

WHEREAS Friday, as the day of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, is designated by the Church as a special day of penance, on which all Catholics are obliged either to abstain from the consumption of meat or to engage in some other practice of penance; and

WHEREAS the reestablishment in the Diocese of Juneau of the practice that Catholics abstain from the consumption of meat on Fridays throughout the year would assist our members to fulfill their penitential obligation, serve as a means of atonement for sin, and offer tangible witness of our faith in and commitment to Jesus Christ; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau that all Catholics resident in the Diocese of Juneau be instructed in the requirement to do penance on Fridays, and be invited to join the Bishop and priests of the Diocese in abstaining from the consumption of meat on Fridays throughout the year, thereby fulfilling their obligation of Friday penance; and that abstinence from meat will be the custom at all diocesan, parish, and mission events on Fridays.

RESOLUTION E-8: Sacraments of Christian Initiation

WHEREAS the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist—are foundational to all Christian life and therefore to the New Evangelization; and

WHEREAS the proper celebration of these Sacraments is one of the most important functions of the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Juneau; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That the celebration in the parishes and missions of the Diocese of the Christian Initiation of Adults and Children of Catechetical Age be carried out faithfully in accordance with the applicable universal, national, and diocesan norms, including the *Diocese of Juneau Policies and Norms on Christian Initiation*.
2. That the age of Confirmation in the Diocese of Juneau for children who have been baptized as infants be established as the age of reason, in accordance with universal law, in order to preserve the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation as Baptism, followed by Confirmation, followed by First Communion.

RESOLUTION E-9: Encouragement of Catholic Devotions

WHEREAS the life of the Catholic Church, in Southeast Alaska as elsewhere, has been enriched by the devotional traditions of its members; and

WHEREAS the further promotion and renewal of such devotions can be of great assistance to individuals and communities in the New Evangelization; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Second Synod of the Diocese of Juneau:

1. That Eucharistic devotions, especially Adoration and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, be encouraged in the parishes and missions of the Diocese. Where practicable, the custom of extended overnight Eucharistic Adoration should be explored.
2. That the praying of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Way of the Cross, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, both by individuals and in common, be promoted among the faithful.
3. That the devotions that have been important in the life of the Diocese, including but not limited to those seeking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, Saint

Therese of Lisieux, Saint Faustina, and Saint Michael the Archangel be fostered, especially on the occasion of their feast days.

4. That the Corpus Christi procession be celebrated throughout the Diocese where possible.

5. That we teach the people to pray the Angelus and the Regina Coeli, both privately and when we gather together.