



JEFFREY J. WALSH

Bishop of Gaylord

By the Grace of God and the Apostolic See

DECREE OF PROMULGATION

PARTICULAR LAW REGULATING THE USE OF MINISTERS IN THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY MASS IN THE DIOCESE OF GAYLORD

WHEREAS the motu proprio *Spiritus Domini* of Pope Francis states that “a doctrinal development has taken place in recent years which has highlighted how certain ministries instituted by the Church are based on the common condition of being baptized and the royal priesthood received in the Sacrament of Baptism; they are essentially distinct from the ordained ministry received in the Sacrament of Orders. A consolidated practice in the Latin Church has also confirmed, in fact, that these lay ministries, since they are based on the Sacrament of Baptism, may be entrusted to all suitable faithful, whether male or female,” and that, as a result the Code of Canon Law was modified to permit the formal installation of women to the ministries of lector and acolyte;

Whereas the greater contains the lesser, such that, where it is possible to stably institute women to the ministries of lector and acolyte it is therefore possible to entrust the functions of lector and acolyte to them without being formally installed;

THEREFORE, in accord with the norm of canon 223 §2, I promulgate and establish the following as particular law for the Diocese of Gaylord:

- Recognizing the reality that the roles of lector and of acolyte are properly speaking ministries derived from baptism and not from holy orders, in every Parish or limited use Church the laity will be permitted to exercise the role of lector through the proclamation of the Word of God at Holy Mass, excepting, of course the Gospel which is reserved to the deacon or presbyter as well as to exercise the role of acolyte through altar serving or functioning as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

- Anyone who meets the requirements of the Diocese of Gaylord will be permitted to exercise these functions provided that either it is their territorial parish, or the parish they have chosen regularly to attend. No pastor may restrict the exercise of these ministries to males alone.
- At any Masses in which there are more than 100 faithful present, whether or not it is a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are to be used, unless there is present and actively involved in the Mass a sufficient number of deacons and presbyters so as to permit the distribution of Holy Communion without excessively prolonging the length of the Mass.
- In non-parochial communities, the above-referenced norm for parishes is to be applied *mutatis mutandis*.
- Masses celebrated according to the 1962 *Missale Romanum* are governed by their own norms, so that the particular law promulgated herein does not apply to them.

I direct that this Decree be published and take effect on the Feast of St. Teresa of Avila (October 15, 2026), anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Gaylord on this 2nd day of October 2026.



The Most Reverend Jeffrey J. Walsh
Bishop of Gaylord



Christina Ihlenfeldt
Chancellor