



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Providence
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Norms Regarding the Care of Sacred Places

GENERAL DECREE

IN THE NAME OF GOD. AMEN.

Whereas the Diocesan Bishop is the moderator, promoter, and guardian of the whole liturgical life in the particular Church entrusted to him, and may set forth liturgical norms in his Diocese by which all are bound (cf. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* §19; can. 835 §1, 838 §4 CIC),

Whereas the Diocesan Bishop has the right and duty of overseeing and attending to churches and oratories in his territory in regard to liturgical matters, to which all are subject (cf. *Redemptionis Sacramentum* §23; can. 397 §1, 678 §1, 683 §1 CIC),

Whereas all presbyters celebrate divine worship and sanctify the people of God under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop (cf. can. 835 §2 CIC),

Whereas pastors shepherd the parishes entrusted to them under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop, in whose ministry of Christ they have been called to share (cf. can. 515 §1, 519 CIC),

Whereas in the State of Rhode Island the Diocesan Bishop serves as President of all diocesan and parish corporations under the statutes of civil law,

Whereas the ongoing modification of parishes in the Diocese of Providence requires greater vigilance concerning liturgical fixtures in churches and oratories,

I hereby decree, with the force of particular law for the Diocese of Providence (cf. can. 29 CIC), the following norms:

Art. 1: It pertains to the Diocesan Bishop, or those expressly delegated by him, to review and approve proposals of a parish or other juridic person, which oversees churches and oratories open to the faithful, to erect, remove, or relocate fixed or movable altars (whether blessed or consecrated), tabernacles, ambos and pulpits, baptismal fonts, shrines, pews, communion rails, and any other liturgical fixture in a church or oratory.

Art. 2 §1: In order to erect, remove, or relocate a fixed or movable altar (whether blessed or consecrated), tabernacle, ambo or pulpit, baptismal font, shrine, pew, communion rail

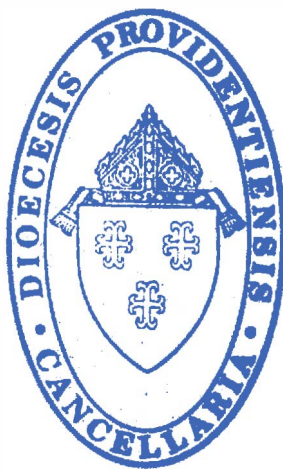
or any other liturgical fixture in a church or oratory open to the faithful, the written consent of the Diocesan Bishop is required.

§2: The aforementioned liturgical fixtures may not be transferred to another church or oratory without the written consent of the Diocesan Bishop.

Art. 3: Projects pertaining to the erection, removal, or relocation of fixed or movable altars (whether blessed or consecrated), tabernacles, ambos and pulpits, baptismal fonts, shrines, pews, communion rails, and any other liturgical fixture in a church or oratory with expenditures accumulating to \$25,000 or more require the prior review of the Director of Diocesan Facilities and the Vicar for Planning and Financial Services before receiving the written consent of the Diocesan Bishop, with due regard for the norms on the administration of ecclesiastical property set out by the *Diocesan Administrative Policies Manual* and the *Fourth Diocesan Synod*.

I decree that these norms be promulgated on September 17, 2020, by their publication in the official diocesan newspaper, *The Rhode Island Catholic* and the official diocesan website, and will have the force of law effective immediately upon promulgation (cf. can. 8 §2 CIC).

Given in Providence, at the Chancery, on the 8th Day of September, 2020, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T. J. Tobin", written over a horizontal line.

Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin
Bishop of Providence

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nathan J. Ricci", written over a horizontal line.

Reverend Nathan J. Ricci
Vice Chancellor