



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. n. 717/15

NOTIFICATION
ABOUT THE GRANTING OF VENERATION
ON THE OCCASION OF THE PILGRIMAGE
OF MAJOR RELICS OF BLESSEDS

Amongst the general criteria surrounding the pilgrimage of relics of Blesseds outside the places in which they already enjoy a legitimate liturgical *cultus* (cf. *Notificatio de cultu Beatorum*, in *Notitiae* 1999, pp. 444-446), as far as veneration is concerned, the following should be kept in mind: the importance of the relics of the Blessed (a mere fragment or piece of clothing is not appropriate), the agreement of the relevant diocesan Bishops, the implications deriving from the fact that, because this is a Blessed, liturgical veneration is granted in their honour on an *ad hoc* basis in the churches which the relics visit and only for the time which they remain there.

On the occasion of the pilgrimage of the major relics of a Blessed (the body, most of the body, the heart), the possibility of liturgical celebrations in their honour is granted by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for the individual churches in which the relics are exposed for the veneration of the faithful and for the days which they remain there. The request is presented by whoever organises the pilgrimage.

For the celebration of Mass and the Divine Office texts are used which have already been duly approved (in different languages), drawing from the corresponding Common of the Roman Missal, Lectionary and Liturgy of the Hours for what is missing; in the absence of already approved texts one draws from the formularies of the Common.

The Mass and Office of the Blessed are ruled out when they coincide with nn. 1-5 of the “Table of Liturgical Days According to their Order of Precedence”; they are permitted, with the consent of the diocesan Bishop (cf. *Institutio generalis Missalis Romani*, n. 374), when they coincide with nn. 6-9 of the Table, always remembering that on Sundays (of Christmas and Ordinary Time) only one Mass may be in honour of the Blessed while the other Masses and the Liturgy of the Hours shall be of the Sunday itself.

The name of the Blessed may be mentioned in the Eucharistic Prayer when a Prayer is used in which it is possible to mention the Saint of the day. Likewise, if the Litany of the Saints is sung the name of the Blessed may be invoked; images of the Blessed may also be displayed for public veneration (cf. *Notificatio de cultu Beatorum* nn. 11 & 13).

Regarding the various expressions of piety and devotion that surround the relics of the Blesseds please refer to the directions contained in the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy. Principles and Guidelines*, nn. 236-237 and 245.

From the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 27 January 2016.

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Prefect

✠ Arthur Roche
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