

Appendix 28: The norms for Holy Days of Obligation in the Diocese of Bismarck

On December 13, 1991 the members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States of America made the following decree concerning holy days of obligation for Latin Rite Catholics.

In addition to Sunday, the days to be observed as holy days of obligation in the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States of America, in conformity with canon 1246, are as follows:

January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, Solemnity of the Ascension;
August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
November 1, Solemnity of All Saints
December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception;
December 25, Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Whenever January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, or November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated.

This decree of the conference of Bishops was approved and confirmed by the Apostolic See by a decree of the Congregation for Bishops, signed by Bernardin Cardinal Gantin, Prefect of the Congregation, and dated July 4, 1992. The effective date of this decree for all the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States of America was January 1, 1993, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. (First given on February 15, 1993)

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION TRANSFERRED

In accord with the provision of canon 1246 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops decreed that the Ecclesiastical Provinces of the United States may transfer the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

This decree was approved by His Holiness Pope John Paul II by a decree of the Congregation for Bishops on July 5, 1999. In accord with the defined procedure, each Ecclesiastical Province must give the necessary affirmative vote. Most Rev. Harry J. Flynn, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis notified Bishops of this Province (North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota) that the required approval has been received. Neighboring Ecclesiastical Provinces are free to make their own decision. The following has been in effect since the year 2000:

The Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord will be celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter rather than the Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter.