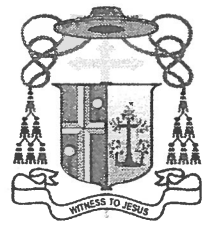


Diocese of Honolulu

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Office of the Bishop

May 16, 2008

Brother Robert Hoppe, S.M.
Reverend Timothy Eden, S.M.
Marianist Center of Hawaii
3140 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

Dear Brother Hoppe & Father Eden:

Peace be with you!

I received your letter of May 9 in which you requested that Mystical Rose Oratory be exempted from the diocesan requirement that all churches have kneelers and use them for Mass as directed by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. As you mentioned in your letter, Mystical Rose Oratory is designed in such a way that it is sloped with a small step between each row of chairs that that would make it cumbersome to install kneelers.

Your reasons seem sound, so I am granting Mystical Rose Oratory an exemption from the requirement that kneelers be installed. When you conduct your liturgical catechesis, however, please point out that the permission to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer is indeed an exemption and not the normal practice. I am sure that those who attend Mass at the Oratory visit other parishes from time to time, so they should know that the custom at Mystical Rose is the exception and not the norm. Also, please be sure to instruct the people that "Those who do not kneel ought to make a profound bow when the priest genuflects after the consecration." (GIRM #43)

Thank you for all you do! May the Lord continue to bless you and the community of Mystical Rose Oratory.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Silva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend Larry Silva
Bishop of Honolulu

c: Sr. Helene Wood, SS.CC., Office of Worship
Very Rev. Marc Alexander, V.G.