



CATHOLIC DIOCESE  
*of*  
**BATON ROUGE**  
Office of the Bishop

## DECREE

### Abrogation of the Particular Law Regarding Saturday Evening/Sunday Weddings in the Diocese of Baton Rouge

*In the Name of God. Amen.*

Whereas the Church exists on earth as a visible society, which must be well and lawfully ordered in order to manifest the Lord's presence to the world effectively;

Whereas several members of the faithful and members the presbyterate of Baton Rouge have inquired whether some particular laws have become obsolete with the passage of time including the prohibition of weddings and convalidations on Sunday and holy days of obligation;

Whereas after consulting the Presbyteral Council of Baton Rouge and having received their counsel and recommendation they too agree with my decision to abrogate this diocesan statute currently in force; and

Whereas previous legislation in the Diocese of Baton Rouge prohibited weddings and convalidations on certain days and times;

I, the undersigned Bishop of Baton Rouge, conscious of my right and duty to exercise legislative power in the governance of the Church entrusted to me (cf. c. 391), hereby abrogate the following diocesan law as found in the *Pagella and Policies* of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, namely:

“In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, weddings and convalidations are not permitted on Sunday or on holy days of obligation. Neither are these, even without the nuptial Mass, permitted after 3:00 p.m. on Saturday or days preceding holy days of obligation.”

Pastors are now given the discretion in the Diocese of Baton Rouge to schedule weddings and convalidations on Saturday evenings, Sundays, or even on holy days of obligation, if necessary. Proper liturgical laws should be observed for any of these ritual celebrations.

I order the promulgation of this decree through its publication in *The Catholic Commentator*, upon which publication the decree will take immediate effect (cf. c. 8 §2).

Given at the Chancery of Baton Rouge on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2021, the Memorial of St. Polycarp.

Most Reverend Michael G. Duca  
Bishop of Baton Rouge

Ann T. Boltin  
Chancellor