



## DICASTERIUM DE CULTU DIVINO ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Following a number of requests for clarification regarding the transfer of the obligation to attend Mass when a holyday of obligation is transferred, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, having consulted the Dicastery for Legislative Texts, by means of this Note hereby specifies the following.

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Prot. 51/25

Vatican City, 23 January 2025

### NOTE

#### **on the obligation to attend Mass when a holyday of obligation is transferred because of an *occurrentia festorum***

1. The coexistence, in the liturgical year, of the weekly cycle, of movable feasts and weekdays (because of their relationship with Easter), and of days (feasts and weekdays) with fixed date celebrations, both in the universal calendar and in particular calendars, gives rise to the phenomenon of *occurrentia festorum*, i.e. the coincidence of two feast days on the same calendar date.
2. This is regulated by the *Normae universales de Anno liturgico et de Calendario* according to which (n. 59) “precedence among liturgical days, as regards their celebration, is governed solely” by the *Tabula dierum liturgicorum*.
3. Therefore, “if several celebrations fall on the same day, the one that holds the highest rank according to the Table of Liturgical Days is observed. However, a Solemnity impeded by a liturgical day that takes precedence over it should be transferred to the closest day not listed under nn. 1-8 in the Table of Precedence, provided that what is laid down in n. 5 is observed” (*Normae universales* n. 60).
4. In this regard, the following *dubium* arises: **in the case of the transfer of a holyday of obligation, is one bound on the day *ad quem* to observe the obligation to attend Mass?**
5. The *CIC* deals with holydays of obligation in canons 1246-1248: these canons do not provide for the possibility of a transfer due to an occasional *occurrentia festorum*. The faculty given to the Episcopal Conference, with the approval of the Apostolic See, to suppress or transfer to Sunday certain holydays of obligation (cf. can. 1246 § 2) refers to suppressions or transfers which are not occasional but permanent.
6. Since this is a liturgical matter and since this issue is not expressly regulated by the *CIC*, in addition to applying what is laid down in the *Normae universales de Anno liturgico et de Calendario*, it is necessary to bear in mind the normative interventions that the competent curial body for divine worship and the discipline of the sacraments has adopted over time. These interventions attest to a well-established practice according to which, in the event of the transfer of a holyday of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred.
7. **Since this practice is not contrary to the canons of the *CIC*, it is to be considered liturgical law (cf. Canon 2) that in the event of the occasional transfer of a holyday of obligation, the obligation to attend Mass is not transferred to the day *ad quem*.**

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