



## THE ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

### CHANCERY OFFICE

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*Attention news media: Anticipating queries and requests for comment regarding an important pastoral message on the liturgy and the Neocatechumenal way issued to all clergy yesterday, Mar. 15, Archbishop Michael Byrnes issues the following statement. A copy of his pastoral letter, the full, long version also accompanies this statement.*

March 16, 2017

### Archbishop Byrnes Statement regarding pastoral letter on liturgy

My pastoral letter issued yesterday, March 15 seeks to unify the Church on Guam, rather than divide. The sooner we have unity and universal adherence as an archdiocese to the norms established by the Church in celebrating the Body of Christ during the sacred celebration of the Mass, the sooner we shall be on the path to reconciling with one another and bring healing to our divided diocese.

I recognize the good that the Neocatechumenal Way has brought to many people's lives on Guam and elsewhere. I affirm that the Way has been recognized and approved by the Holy See. The need to build adherence to liturgical norms is imperative however, and will only enrich the fruits of the Neocatechumenal movement.

I ask all Catholics to have the spirit of Christ during this time of adjustment and be charitable with one another especially during this Holy season of Lent. We are called to see the face of Christ in our brother and sister and respond with love, above all else.

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*A copy of the pastoral letter (long form) accompanies this statement to news media.*