



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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DECREE REGARDING THE RANK OF THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE CO-PATRONS OF THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

The Table of Liturgical Days sets the patronal observance as a Feast, with a rank of 8(a): “The Feast of the principal Patron of the diocese.” Feasts are suppressed when they fall on a Sunday or Solemnity. The 2006 Diocesan Statutes of the Third Diocesan Synod promoted their observance from Feast to Solemnity. However, as Solemnities, rather than being suppressed when they fall on a Sunday, liturgical law moves them: “...Solemnities occurring on [the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter] are transferred to the following Monday unless they occur on Palm Sunday or on Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection.”¹ This creates a requirement to sometimes observe St. Patrick’s Day on March 18th and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 13th. In the Diocese of Sacramento neither of those transfers have been effective or embraced in our local cultures.

Having consulted the Diocesan Liturgical Commission on May 7, 2024 and the Diocesan Presbyteral Council on June 17, 2024, it has become clear that leaving these observances on their proper day is pastorally preferable, even though as Feasts they will be suppressed on Sundays. To restore their rank to Feasts, an adjustment of the Diocesan Statutes is necessary.

I, the undersigned Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento, do hereby decree that Statue 123(§1) of the *Statutes of the Third Synod of the Diocese of Sacramento*, promulgated on November 26, 2006, is amended to read:

“The feasts of the Co-Patrons of the Diocese:

- a. Saint Patrick—March 17
- b. Our Lady of Guadalupe—December 12”

This is to be effective immediately with notification given to the clergy of the Diocese through the normal channels.

Given at the Chancery, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, in Sacramento, California, on this sixth day of February, in the year of Our Lord two thousand twenty-six.

Uli Schmitt
Chancellor

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento



¹ Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, #5