

LITURGYNOTES – FOR FEBRUARY 2016

CHURCH NEWS

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Change to Holy Thursday Rubric: *Mandatum*

As has been widely reported, Pope Francis has changed the rubrics relating to the footwashing (*mandatum*) on Holy Thursday. The text of the decree from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments is reproduced and is also available on the Liturgy Events webpage, along with a commentary by Archbishop Roche.

The restoration of Holy Week, with the decree *Maxima Redemptionis nostrae mysteria* (30 November 1955), granted the faculty for the washing of feet of twelve men during the Mass of the Lord's Supper after the reading of the Gospel according to John, where a pastoral reason recommended it, in order to demonstrate in an almost representative way the humility and charity of Christ towards his disciples.

In the Roman Liturgy this rite was handed down with the name of the Mandatum of the Lord concerning fraternal charity from the words of Jesus (cf Jn 13:34), which are sung in an Antiphon during the celebration.

In performing this rite Bishops and priests are invited to intimately conform themselves to Christ who «came not to be served but to serve» (Mt 20:28) and, compelled by charity «to the end» (Jn 13:1), to give his life for the salvation of the whole human race.

In order that the full meaning of this rite might be expressed to those who participate it seemed good to the Supreme Pontiff Pope Francis to vary the norm which is found in the rubrics of the *Missale Romanum* (p. 300 n. 11): «The men who have been chosen are led by the ministers...», which therefore must be changed as follows: «Those who are chosen from amongst the people of God are led by the ministers...» (and consequently in the *Caeremoniali Episcoporum* n. 301 and n. 299b: «seats for those chosen»), so that pastors may select a small group of the faithful to represent the variety and the unity of each part of the people of God. Such small groups can be made up of men and women, and it is appropriate that they consist of people young and old, healthy and sick, clerics, consecrated men and women and laity.

This Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in virtue of the faculties granted by the Supreme Pontiff, introduces this innovation into the liturgical books of the Roman Rite, reminding pastors of their responsibility to adequately instruct both the chosen faithful as well as all others so that they may participate consciously, actively and fruitfully in the rite.

YEAR OF MERCY

Virtual Marriage Retreat: Marriage & Mercy

Are you looking for a way to enrich your marriage? You are invited to participate in a seven-day virtual retreat! In celebration of the yearlong Jubilee of Mercy, this retreat is based on the theme of “marriage and mercy.” Each day has a theme, followed by ways to put that theme into practice through prayer, reflection, and action.

Flyer: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/upload/Virtual-Marriage-Retreat-2016-Marriage-and-Mercy.pdf>

Webpage: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/everymarriage/enrichment/seven-day-virtual-marriage-retreat/>

SAVE THE DATE - Mercy in Motion: A Ministries of Mercy Conference – July 30, 2016

In observance of the Year of Mercy, the Diocese of Davenport will be hosting *Mercy in Motion: A Ministries of Mercy Conference* on Saturday, July 30 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. Guided by keynote speaker Tom East from the Center for Ministry Development, the faithful of the diocese are invited to reflect upon our call to be a Church of Mercy. The conference will feature a ministry fair with representatives from numerous local organizations and parish programs. Attendants will also be able to participate in a variety of breakout sessions focused on how to develop and maintain various “ministries of mercies” within their parishes and how to be involved as “merciful ministers” with organizations or ministries that implement works of mercy in the community. Please contact Marianne Agnoli at agnolim@davenportdiocese.org if you have any questions or if you or one of your parish organizations are interested in providing information at the ministry fair.

RESOURCE: HOMILETIC DIRECTORY

Summary §§110-139

This section of the *Directory* reviews the Christmas Season. The liturgies of Christmas itself, Holy Family, Mary the Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord are treated.

The Vigil Mass for the Christmas and the three Masses for Christmas itself (the Masses at Night, Dawn, and Day) each have unique readings, stressing particular aspects of the mystery of the Incarnation. The *Directory* notes that one purpose of the homily is to help move the assembly to a more full participation in the liturgy of the Eucharist; to that end, the preacher may highlight that the liturgical texts for Christmas highlight the “today” of Christ’s coming. Another central image at these liturgies is Christ as the Light of the world (#110-119).

On the Feast of the Holy Family (#120-122), the preacher is urged that “rather than simply giving a moral exhortation on family values, [he] should take his cue from the Scripture readings of this day to speak of the Christian family as a school of *discipleship*” (#121). It is also recommended that if the preacher is not planning on explicitly addressing St. Paul’s instruction that wives are to be subordinate to their husbands then the shorter version of the reading should be used. If the preacher is going to explore the

implications of this text for today, highlighting that the “subordination” which Paul speaks of is to be mutual and done out of reverence for Christ needs to be stressed (#122).

The remaining feast days (Mary, Mother of God [#123], Epiphany [#124-130], and Baptism of the Lord [#131-139]) continue to unpack the mystery of the Incarnation for us. Jesus is born fully human; one of us—a solidarity expressed by his acceptance of baptism in the Jordan.

Response

The mystery of the Incarnation is central to the Christian faith. However, the preacher must be careful not to let the homily become a lecture on the theology of the Incarnation (or, on the Feast of the Baptism, on Trinitarian theology) but instead help the assembly experience this reality in their lives here and now. *Today* is born for us a Savior... where and how do we encounter Christ?

Again, we must be careful not to paint the Jewish people as “blind” to the “obvious” arrival of the Messiah. We read the First Testament retrospectively. Messianic expectations differed widely among Jewish believers at the time of Jesus. The Gospel writers and editors tell the birth narratives in particular ways to make specific theological points, not to report on the details of what happened. A good preacher keeps all these things in mind.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Rite of Election

We will celebrate the Rite of Election at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, February 14 (1st Sunday of Lent) and at St. Mary of the Visitation in Ottumwa on Sunday, February 21 (2nd Sunday of Lent). Both liturgies begin at 3pm.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Monday, March 14, at 5pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Ordination

Ordinations to the diaconate and presbyterate will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, June 4, at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrating the Year of Mercy

On March 2, the Ottumwa Deanery will celebrate a Communal Penance Liturgy (St. Mary, Fairfield; 7:00 p.m.) with the Bishop.

CONTINUING FORMATION FOR LITURGY / LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Youth and Liturgical Music Ministry: February 27, 2016

Clarke University and the Archdiocesan Office of Worship announce a conference for Teens in Liturgical Music: A Conference for Parish Mentors and Teens, Saturday, February 27, 2016. Check in will be 8:30 a.m. and the conference will be 9:00 – 4:00 at Clarke University. Parish music directors will bring teen

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(and adult) musicians who play brass instruments, flute oboe and clarinet, guitars, and piano organ for the instrumental breakout sessions in liturgical music. Small choirs will meet and read through music for two part choirs and three part choirs. There will be coaching for cantors. Clarke University professors and guests will lead the breakout sessions and there will be an inspiring presentation by national speaker, Rachelle Kramer, chair of the NPM Youth section. The final event is a concert by all the participants who bring their instruments and vocal skills. Register or download a flyer at www.clarke.edu/tilm.

Msgr. Kevin Irwin Coming to St. Ambrose on March 8, 2016

Monsignor Kevin Irwin, S.T.D., will deliver the Chair of Catholic Studies Lecture on March 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rogalski Center Ballroom. His lecture is entitled: "The Eucharist is Justice."

Monsignor Irwin is the past Dean of the College of Theology and Religious Studies, and Walter J. Schmitz Chair of Liturgical Studies at the Catholic University of America. In the 1990's, Monsignor Irwin was an invited participant at the annual scholars' conferences on the environment sponsored by the Environmental Justice Committee of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. He has worked with the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Istanbul) on the theology of ecology at the invitation of Patriarch Bartholomew. His most recent research interests concern the intersection of a theology of ecology with the church's celebration of the sacred liturgy and the sacraments. Monsignor Irwin served as a frequent commentator during the previous two papal transitions. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Two Presentations/Workshops by Dan Schutte: April 8-9, 2016

HERE I AM, LORD: LIVING THE VOCATION OF OUR BAPTISM

Saying "yes" to God is something we continue to do all through our lives, a vocation we all share as children of God. An evening of praying, singing and reflecting on God's call with a listening heart is a perfect way to remind ourselves of God's ever-presence in our lives. Concert at Christ the King Chapel, St. Ambrose University with proceeds to benefit the Benet House Scholarship Fund. Fri. Apr. 8, 7 pm; Fee: \$20; Free to SAU students; \$5/other students with student ID.

MASS OF CHRIST THE SAVIOR WORKSHOP

The celebration of Eucharist is at the center of your parish's communal life. As the Church enters more fully into the New Evangelization, it's a perfect time to focus attention on how we can more fully enter into the prayer of the Mass. Dan's musical setting of the revised texts of the Roman Missal Third Edition is fast becoming the standard sung in parishes. Hear Dan speak about the process he engaged in writing this music and learn how to engage your community more fully in the singing. Workshop at Christ the King Chapel, St. Ambrose University. Sat. Apr. 9, 8 am (Registration) 8:30 am –12 pm; Fee: \$25; Register for both events: \$40. Free to SAU students; \$5/other students with student ID.

National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Annual Convention: July 11-16, 2016

The annual convention of the NPM will be held in Houston, Texas this year, with the theme – *The Church Sings*. Please visit their website for more information and/or to register for the convention: <http://www.npm.org/>.

For more opportunities, see the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA: MYSTAGOGY

In the Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis (or Mystagogy), a number of rites can be celebrated—the most important of which are the “neophyte Masses” in which all those who have been baptized at the Vigil gather together again to celebrate the liturgy. Pentecost Sunday and the anniversary of their baptism would be other special days to keep in mind. Please see RCIA #244-251. The National Statutes for the RCIA (# 24) state that this period should last a year, with at least monthly meetings.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation introduced by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes and is an important opportunity for those who serve in Catholic health ministry to reflect on caring for those who are sick as well as those who provide care to them. Resources are available on the Catholic Health Association website: <http://www.chausa.org/prayers/prayer-library/liturgical-prayers-and-reflections/solemnities-feast-days-and-memorials/world-day-of-the-sick>.

Easter Time and Pentecost

- The days of the Easter Octave are celebrated as solemnities. The double alleluia is added to the dismissal and its response (just for the octave and on Pentecost; *not* for the entire season). The Sequence is required on Easter Sunday but optional on the other days of the octave.
- The Second Sunday of Easter is also celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. See the Liturgy Events webpage for resources.
- Have the neophytes (the newly baptized) sit in a special place during the Easter Season. Remember them in the intercessions. Please see RCIA #244-251.
- The paschal candle should be kept by the altar or ambo, and lit during liturgies until Evening Prayer II on Pentecost.
- The Easter Season is a great time to celebrate infant baptisms at the Sunday liturgy, and to use the Sprinkling Rite instead of the Penitential Rite.
- This is also a traditional time for home blessings (see Book of Blessings #1597-1621).
- Remember: we “fast for 40” but we “feast for 50!!”

Eastertime and Judaism

Excerpted from *God's Mercy Endures Forever: Guidelines on the Presentation of Jews and Judaism in Catholic Preaching* (Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, September, 1988); full document at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/jewish/upload/God-s-Mercy-Endures-Forever-Guidelines-on-the-Presentation-of-Jews-and-Judaism-in-Catholic-Preaching-1988.pdf>.

26. The readings of the Easter season, especially those from the book of Acts, which is used extensively throughout this liturgical period, require particular attention from the homilist in light of the enduring bond between Jews and Christians. Some of these readings from Acts (e.g., cycles A and B for the Third and Fourth Sundays of Easter) can leave an impression of collective Jewish responsibility for the crucifixion ("You put to death the author of life...." Acts 3:15). In such cases, the homilist should put before the assembly the teachings of *Nostra Aetate* in this regard (see no. 22 above), as well as the fact noted in Acts 3:17 that what was done by some individual Jews was done "out of ignorance" so that no unwarranted conclusion about collective guilt is drawn by the hearers. The Acts may be dealing with a reflection of the Jewish-Christian relationship as it existed toward the end of the first century (when Acts was composed) rather than with the actual attitudes of the post-Easter Jerusalem Church. Homilists should desire to convey the spirit and enthusiasm of the early Church that marks these Easter season readings. But in doing so, statements about Jewish responsibility have to be kept in context. This is part of the reconciliation between Jews and Christians to which we are all called.

INTERCESSIONS

Here are resources for the Universal Prayer:

(1) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>

(2) Intercession for vocations (in English and Spanish) keyed to the lectionary cycle may be found at the Diocese of Arlington website:

http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx

(3) Lectionary-based intercessions focused on social justice can be found at the Center of Concern website:

<http://www.coc.org/ef>

(4) The Center for Liturgy website offers general intercessions for each Sunday as well:

<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

(5) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops offers intercessions and homily ideas as part of their Pastoral Initiative for Life and Family:

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/3296-documents-and-activities-proposed-by-the-ccb>

(6) See also our website for prayer resources in times of crisis:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm#Prayers>

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