

Training and Formation on the *Roman Missal, third edition*

Guided Reflection and Mystagogical Catechesis

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC], Region 7

Participating Dioceses

in Illinois: Belleville, Chicago, Joliet in Illinois, Springfield in Illinois

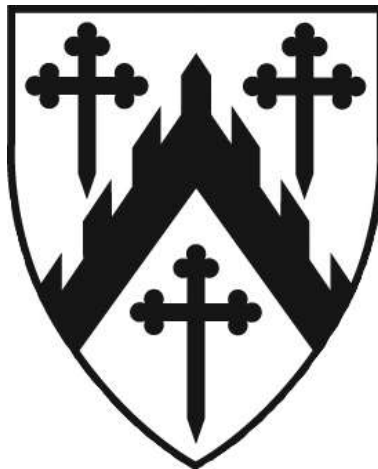
in Indiana: Evansville, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gary, Indianapolis, Lafayette-in-Indiana

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Introduction

Thanks to Region VII of the FDLC, this resource is offered to parish implementation teams for their use and to share with catechetical leaders in their communities.

The advent of the third edition of the Roman Missal offers us a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the liturgy in order to enter into it more fully. At the same time, catechesis on and from the liturgy poses its own challenges and calls for its own approach. Therefore, Part I below focuses on liturgical (ritual) catechesis.

In addition, our catechetical efforts should not end with the first use of the Missal. Ongoing reflection on the texts and on the rites once they are in use will only deepen our engagement with the liturgy... and our faith. Therefore, Part II below covers the issue of mystagogy: intentional reflection on a rite *after* it has been celebrated.

Part I. LITURGICAL or RITUAL CATECHESIS

One. SOME PRIMARY SOURCES

Second Sunday of Easter, Year A: Acts of the Apostles 2:42	LM, no. 43A
Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, <i>Sacrosanctum Concilium</i>	CSL, nos. 9 and 35.3
Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity, <i>Ad gentes</i>	DCMA, no. 14
<i>Lectionary for Mass: Introduction</i>	LMIn, nos. 60-61
<i>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</i>	RCIA, no. 75
<i>Sharing the Light of Faith: National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States</i>	NCD, nos. 36, 113, 213
<i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	CCC, nos. 1074-1075
<i>General Directory for Catechesis</i>	GDC, no. 71
<i>National Directory for Catechesis</i>	NDC, chapter 5; no. 33

Two. A WORKING DEFINITION

- Robert Duggan, 1992, during a North American Forum on the Catechumenate Team Gathering, Belleville IL
 - “Liturgical catechesis is everything that we do catechetically
 - that prepares us to enter into the liturgical experience,
 - and everything that we do catechetically to reflect on that experience afterward.”

Three. “THE THREE MOMENTS OF LITURGICAL CATECHESIS”

- Andrew G. Varga, *Catechumenate Journal*, March 1993, pages 14-21.

1. Spiritual Preparation

- “plowing of the soil” with catechumens and candidates
- preparation and rehearsal with sponsors and ministers
- with the assembly

2. Celebration

- allowing the rite to be prayer, evoking and forming faith
- for the assembly as well as for the particular catechumens and candidates
- with energetic proclamation and evocative homiletic preaching
- focusing on the primary symbol-actions
- knowledgeably and carefully adapted

3. Reflection – Mission

- reflection that is clearly mystagogical in character
- with challenge to mission: where go from here?

Four. “CATECHETICS AND LITURGY”

- John Hofinger, SJ; *Worship* (December 1954-January 1955), vol. 29, no. 2, pages 89-95.
- How closely the catechetical and liturgical movements are allied, today more than ever...the two movements were on friendly terms from their very beginnings and proved mutually helpful...
- Each is intrinsically related to the other and can achieve its own purpose only by working together with the other in a well-planned and organic manner...
- It is in the liturgy above all that the Christian mysteries can in the course of the year be learned by “doing” them; they can become a living experience by taking part in them...
- Not every form of liturgical service will have this effect, but only those which allow and encourage ordinary Christians, including children, to take an active part; which do not restrict them to the passivity of mere spectatorship, however “rapt,” but permit them to “play along” in the sacred drama of the divine Mysteries.

Five. “HOW DO WE DO LITURGICAL CATECHESIS”

- Victoria M. Tufano; *Liturgy 90* (April 1997), pages 4-8.
- Liturgical catechesis is about being careful in the things we do
- Answers to three questions: What is it? Who is it for? What does it look like?
- Three steps in the process: Catechesis *for* liturgy; Celebrating the liturgy; Catechesis *from* liturgy (mystagogy)
- Leads us toward justice

Six. “LITURGY AS CATECHESIS FOR LIFE”

- Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM; *Liturgical Ministry* 7 (Spring 1998), pages 76-82; in an edited version in *The Living Light* (Summer 2001), vol. 37, no. 4; and in the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions *Newsletter* (May-June 2007), vol. 34, no. 3, pages 13-20. © Rev. Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM.

Catechesis and Liturgy:

- A Continuous Cycle; Coordinating the Cycle

Liturgy as Catechesis:

- Some Preliminaries; The Work of the Lord Jesus; Enacted in Sign and Symbol; Opening up the Symbols

Liturgy as Catechesis for Life:

- Broadening the Cycle; Connecting Liturgy and Life; Liturgy that Does Justice

Some Pastoral Principles

- 10 are listed as hopes of furthering the pastoral goal of shaping liturgy which is truly a first catechesis for newness of life

Seven. “LITURGICAL CATECHESIS: AN OVERVIEW”

- Mary Birmingham; Posted on **EnVisionChurch** web site; <http://www3.georgetown.edu/centers/liturgy/envisionchurch/liturgy/catechesis/32861.html>; 25 April 2007

Liturgical catechesis is more than Lectionary-based catechesis

It takes place in liturgy and in the liturgical year, the privileged place for catechizing

Part II.

GUIDED REFLECTION and MYSTAGOGIAL CATECHESIS

Eight. “A CATECHETICAL METHOD: Mystagogical Catechesis in the Session for Christian Formation”

- Jerry Galipeau; Excerpt from *Apprenticed to Christ: Activities for Practicing the Catholic Way of Life*. Franklin Park IL: World Library Publications, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-1-58459-327-0. Page 8.

A. Initial Reflection

-- recall the event; a simple walk-through of what happened will usually suffice

B. Deeper Reflection

-- with an eye toward uncovering the meaning of the experience

-- make connections between what occurred and the issues of faith and theology

C. Sharing Church Teaching

-- placing related Church teaching in dialogue with the experience

-- the leader makes concrete connections between the presentation and the reflections

D. Conclusion

-- connect to the original experience and the initial reflection

E. Closing Prayer

Nine. PREPARING FOR AND REFLECTING ON A RITE

- Eliot Kapitan, excerpt from a larger work of the same title, © 1994-2009.

GOALS	◆ To pray well; prayer that is full, conscious, and active [CSL, no. 10].
	◆ To celebrate good liturgy that builds up faith [<i>Sing to the Lord</i> , no. 5].
THEOLOGY	◆ Incarnation: God in Christ, like us in all things but sin.
	◆ Worship: our need and God’s due.
TRADITION	◆ <i>Lex orandi lex credendi</i>

PROCESS:

CELEBRATION OF THE RITE

REFLECTION ON THE RITE (45-90 minutes)

(05-10) Recall the praying and the experience of the liturgy in a prayerful way

(10-20) Affective / First Theology

What did you/we experience in this liturgy?

Talk from the heart; name the feelings or state what happened makes you think of

(10-20) Cognitive / Second Theology

Talk about meaning, about symbols, about what is proclaimed

Make connections to broad Christian Tradition

(10-15) Break, if needed

(30-40) Impact of Catholic way of life:

What we believe; how we live and pray and serve; etc.