

LITURGYNOTES – FOR FEBRUARY 2010

In this issue...

- New ritual for Baptism in Spanish...
- Our continuing series on *Sing to the Lord*...
- A new resource from Notre Dame on the upcoming Missal...
- CORRECTED start time for the Easter Vigil: 8:15pm
- The RCIA, the Easter Season, and more...!

CONTACT:

Deacon Frank Agnoli, MD, DMin
Director of Liturgy &
Director of Deacon Formation
E-Mail:
agnoli@davenportdiocese.org
Phone: 563-324-1912 x255

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

FAST—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. On days of fast, one full meal and two lesser meals are allowed. Eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are bound to fast.

ABSTINENCE—Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence. On days of abstinence, meat may not be taken. The law of abstinence binds all Catholics fourteen years of age or older. If members of the Faithful are unable to observe the fast and abstinence regulations because of ill health or other reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of penance and self-denial suitable to their condition.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CHOIR

The 2010 National Catholic Youth Choir is currently accepting student applications. Additional information and application forms can be found on their website at www.CatholicYouthChoir.org. Application forms are due back by March 8, 2010.

RESOURCES

RITUAL PARA EL BAUTISMO DE LOS NIÑOS

The new Spanish language edition of the Rite of Baptism for Children is now available. Effective January 10 of this year, its use in the United States is mandatory whenever baptism is celebrated in Spanish. Copies of the Rite may be purchased from the USCCB (ISBN # 978-1-60137-813-2), the Liturgical Press (ISBN # 978-0-8146-3327-4), or Liturgy Training Publications (ISBN # 978-1-56854-904-0).

CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED

According to their website, Corpus Christi Watershed is “dedicated to exploring and embodying as our calling the relationship of religion, culture and the arts.” As part of their ministry, they have produced a collection of free downloadable liturgical music. Of particular note is their collection of responsorial psalms (resources include score for organ and cantor, response, mp3 file) known as the Chabanel Psalms. These, as well as other resources can be accessed from: <http://chabanelpsalms.org/>.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 20)

While it is tempting to think of a wedding as a private affair—the couple’s (or bride’s) special day—as Catholics we are held to a much broader vision: the liturgy of marriage is indeed a celebration of the entire Church. As such, “the celebration of marriage is governed by the appropriate liturgical norms” (§217). Recently, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission prepared a resource to assist parishes with choosing music appropriate for the celebration of a Catholic wedding; it is available on-line at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litWeddingMusicGuidelines100209.pdf>.

Since the resource is based on *Sing to the Lord*, there is no need to repeat here what can be found there.

The particular musical requirements of the Rites of Ordination (§§225-226), the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (§§227-228), and communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance (§229) are also reviewed in *Sing to the Lord*. In essence, music ministers are encouraged to select music which both fosters the participation of the assembly as well as reflects the sacrament being celebrated. The Bishops note the special place that litanies hold in these rites, and that these should certainly be sung.

Next time: the Liturgy of the Hours (and other rites)...

Sing to the Lord is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

NEW RESOURCE

Please see our webpage (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>) devoted to the new Missal... we have posted a link to the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy’s new video catecheses on the Missal. These 15-minute videos are an excellent way to get introduced to the Missal and its theology. The direct URL to Notre Dame is: <http://www.liturgy.nd.edu/webcatechesis/>. Presenters include Fr. Paul Turner and Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman.

UPDATE FROM THE USCCB

The December 2009 issue of the *NewsLetter* from the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship was devoted to outlining the resources that the USCCB, the Leeds (England) Group, and the FDLC will be producing to assist with the implementation of the new Missal. In summary:

From the USCCB

The primary resource from the USCCB is their website: <http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/>.

In addition, the USCCB will be publishing a parish guide, which will include: a planning guide (strategy and road-map of essential activities), suggested activities and resources (for parishes and schools, including a calendar of when to do what, bulletin inserts, and homily helps), and a planning workbook for those who want to make the period of catechesis before the Missal is implemented a time of parish liturgical renewal.

As mentioned in the January issue, the USCCB and FDLC are offering *Roman Missal* Workshops for priests and diocesan leaders in 20 cities across the country. Registration information will be posted on the USCCB and FDLC (<http://www.fdlc.org/>) websites as soon as it is available.

From the Leeds Group

This international group of priests and scholars will be producing a multimedia resource, including over 80 hours of video as well as audio demonstrations of the new texts and chants of the Mass.

From the FDLC

Resources for dioceses to assist worship offices in planning their workshops are being prepared by the FDLC. In addition to workshop plans and resources (such as “workshops-in-a-box”), the FDLC is also publishing the following resources for parishes and individual ministers: (1) a book of the study papers which formed the basis for the FDLC resources (including works by Fr. Paul Turner and Bishop Kicanas), (2) audio recordings of the new texts, and (3) bulletin inserts and pamphlets for distribution.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

The Rite will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3PM on Sunday, February 21 and again at St. Mary’s in Ottumwa at 3PM on February 28. Please remember that the Rite of Election is not optional: one must be “elected” for the Easter Sacraments by the Bishop (or his delegate). I would hope that we would see this as not just a “legal hoop” to jump through, but as a living sign of our unity as a diocesan church.

The Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, on Monday, March 22, at 5:00 p.m. I would ask that we all encourage the members of our parishes—especially those in the RCIA or preparing for Confirmation—to attend this beautiful and important liturgy. Information on “ordering” oils is being sent this week.

The Care and Reception of the Sacred Oils

Only the Sacred Oils blessed at the Chrism Mass are to be used in the following year. The new oils are to be received by the parish on Holy Thursday (<http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/holyoils.shtml>), and the old oils are to be disposed of properly. For details, please see our diocesan Liturgy Events webpage: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litCareandReceptionofSacredOils.pdf>.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

“Unfolding the Mystery of Christ: Exploring Liturgical Time” – June 14-16, 2010

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy’s annual summer conference will focus on the liturgical year. Information is available on their website: <http://www.liturgy.nd.edu/conference/index.shtml>.

“New Music, New Texts: Preparing for a new Missal” – June 21-24, 2010

This year’s Collegeville Conference on Music, Liturgy and the Arts, held at St. John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville, MN, will explain the new missal and provide implementation guidelines for all who engage in the art of music and liturgy. Sessions will include reasoning and theology of this new direction with an emphasis on understanding liturgical materials, music and revised ritual acts, choral reading, creativity in music, sacred arts and environment, St. John’s Bible, faculty forum and applied music lessons. Keynote Presenters: Paul Ford; Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB; Johan van Parys; Sr. Delores Dufner, OSB; Kim Kasling and Lynn Trapp, Co-directors, clinicians. Registration information and form online at www.csbsju.edu/sot/ccmla.

Loras Liturgical Music Conference – July 6-8, 2010

Save the date! The keynote speaker will be Rev. Jan Michael Joncas.

“Concerning the Baptized” - July 9-10, 2010

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and the FDLC are sponsoring a two-day institute on the initiation journey for those already baptized but seeking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. The program will take place in Cedar Rapids. Mark your calendars!

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.

RCIA AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

There are times when a member of an Eastern Orthodox Church requests to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. It is important that those who work in RCIA and related ministries are aware of the important differences between an Orthodox and an Anglican or Protestant who wishes to come into full communion because there are important implications that affect other sacraments (such as marriage and orders) later. For details, please see the document, “RCIA and Orthodox Christians,” in the RCIA section of the Liturgy Library webpage (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm#RCIA>).

LITURGY PREPARATION

THE FOOTWASHING

We are often asked whether or not it is permissible for women to have their feet washed. The answer is yes. Another question that is asked is whether or not we may substitute the washing of feet with the washing of hands. The answer is no. For details, see the Liturgy Events webpage (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Time for the Start of the Easter Vigil

The *Missale Romanum* states that the Easter Vigil is to take place in darkness, after nightfall. Traditionally in this diocese, and according to the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in 2003, that has been calculated as 45 minutes to an hour after sunset. Therefore, for the Diocese of Davenport, the Vigil on April 3, 2010, may not begin before 8:15 PM. (Note the time change; the same is true for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.)

Easter Season 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; 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. Information for celebrating the day may be found on the USCCB website at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/innews/022003.shtml>.
- 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 (see below) 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!!”

Easter Sprinkling Rite

It is common to celebrate the Sprinkling Rite instead of the Act of Penitence on the Sundays of the Easter Season. However, sometimes a concern is raised that the Introductory Rites become too “prominent” – with entrance hymn, a hymn during the sprinkling, and then the *Gloria*. Some have attempted to solve this dilemma by doing the sprinkling during the *Gloria*, but such an approach distorts the structure of the Sprinkling Rite (the closing prayer often gets abandoned) and misunderstands the purpose of the *Gloria*—which is to give praise to God in *response* to the Act of Penitence (or Sprinkling Rite). Such a practice should be discontinued.

While using the rite as found in the Missal is certainly fine, for those who find that three musical pieces so close together makes for Introductory Rites that are too busy, please allow me to recommend the solution offered in the US Bishops' *Introduction to the Order of Mass* (#74). An outline of the rite as described there is found on our website on the Liturgy Events page. The direct URL is: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litEasterSprinklingRite.pdf>.

INTERCESSIONS

(1) “Intercessions for Life” may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

LiturgyNotes – February 2010

In addition, in light of the debates surrounding health care reform, consider the following (from the USCCB) for inclusion:

That Congress will act to ensure that needed health care reform will truly protect the life, dignity and health care of all and that we will raise our voices to protect the unborn and the most vulnerable and to preserve our freedom of conscience. We pray to the Lord.

(2) Monthly intercession for vocations (courtesy of Fr. Marty Goetz, Director of Vocations):

For those who are discerning their life's vocation, may they seek God's help in prayer; we pray:

(3) Weekly intercessions:

- Mar 7 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT
For those who suffer ridicule or rejection because of their faith; we pray...
- Mar 14 4th SUNDAY OF LENT
For the elderly and those who live in nursing homes and care centers; we pray...
- Mar 21 5th SUNDAY OF LENT
For those who struggle because of dependencies on alcohol or drugs; we pray...
- Mar 28 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
For peace in Iraq and for an end to violence and terrorism; we pray...

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Phone: 563-324-1912 x267

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org