

Dear servants of the liturgy,

I can't believe that I have been here for almost two years! Time flies...☺ During that time, I have received a number of comments, critiques, and suggestions regarding these LiturgyNotes. If you have a moment this summer, please drop me a line and let me know what you have found most useful, what you think needs changing, or any other thoughts regarding this way of keeping in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Deacons or lay persons interested in the ministry of Master of Ceremony are asked to call or e-mail Deacon Frank. We are looking for a few people in each deanery to help with Confirmations. In addition, parishes may find the ministry of an MC useful for the more complicated liturgies – such as the Easter Vigil. Pastors (and others): If you have anyone in mind for this ministry, please ask them to call me or pass their name and contact information along – and I will contact them! Thanks!

DEACON FORMATION

In addition to my ministry as Director of Liturgy, Bishop Amos has asked me to serve as the Director of Deacon Formation for the diocese. Therefore, I would like to announce that we will be holding a number of “Deacon Inquiry Days” across the diocese, beginning this July. The purpose of these gatherings is to introduce men interested in the diaconate and their wives to the life and ministry of deacons—and to determine the level of interest in formation for the diaconate. Those interested may attend any of the sessions; they do not have to attend the session in their deanery. The same material will be covered at each session. The meetings will be held at the following locations (2pm-5pm in Ottumwa; 1pm-4pm at the other sites):

July 29	Ottumwa Deanery	St. Patrick, Ottumwa (2pm-5pm)
August 19	Grinnell Deanery	Sacred Heart, Newton
September 30	Keokuk Deanery	St. Mary Parish Hall, Ft. Madison
October 28	Iowa City Deanery	St. Mary, Solon
November 18	Clinton Deanery	St. Joseph, DeWitt
December 16	Davenport Deanery	Chancery (St. Vincent Center, Davenport)

If you know of any men that might be interested in the diaconate, please have them call or e-mail me (agnoli@davenportdiocese.org; 563-324-1912 x255). It would be helpful to have their name, number, and contact information—and to know which inquiry session they would be attending.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

IN OUR DIOCESE – RCIA: Beginnings and Beyond – July 19-22

A Beginnings and Beyond conference will be held in the diocese July 19-22, 2007 at St. John Vianney Parish in Bettendorf. The registration flyer was included with the December newsletter and is on the diocesan website. Please be aware that scholarships to the conference are available.

National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions: October 9-12 in Hartford Connecticut

This year's meeting will center around "Liturgy: The Privileged Place of Catechesis." More information can be found at the FDLC website: www.fdlc.org.

Cantor Workshops

The Liturgical Press is offering cantor workshops for parishes, featuring Joe Simmons. Contact Caroline Linz (320-363-2023 / clinz@osb.org) for more information.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

From the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy: Calendar Advisory for March 17, 2008

In 2008, the traditional date of Saint Patrick's Day falls on the Monday of Holy Week. Therefore, in most of the United States, the feast (an optional memorial) will not be commemorated liturgically. For those places that celebrate Saint Patrick's Day as a solemnity (for example, those places where St. Patrick is the principal patron of a particular church), the observation of the solemnity is transferred to Friday, March 14.

INTERCESSIONS

Below please find three intercessions for each Sunday of the month. The first is an "intercession for life" provided by the USCCB. The second is an intercession for vocations, courtesy of the vocations office. Finally, there is an intercession written by a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and inspired by the readings of the day. Please use and/or adapt them as you see fit.

July 1 13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all new parents: that this first summer with their child may be filled with the wonders of new life; We pray to the Lord:

For those called to a vocation of ministry in the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, that they will be filled with courage and faith to respond with a life of service...

That we may strive to bring the true freedom of the Kingdom of God to all people...

July 8 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those weighed down with the burdens of old age: that our love for them might bring them joy and a clear vision of the work to which God calls them; We pray to the Lord:

For a fuller appreciation of the gift of ministry within the Church, and an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life...

That through our example, we may inspire others to spread the Good News and care for the sick and suffering...

July 15 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who govern us, and especially for our state representative (name) _____; that God might fill his/her heart with love of the Gospel of Life; We pray to the Lord:

That parents will help their children discern the movement of God's Spirit in their lives and encourage them to follow their call...

That we may greet each person as neighbor, and see their needs with the eyes of Jesus...

July 22 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all candidates for President of our country: that they might preserve, protect and defend the infinite value of human life, from conception to natural death; We pray to the Lord:

For our parish, that we continue to invite and encourage men and women in our midst to share their gifts and energy with our Church...

That we may become the eyes and hands of Christ, welcoming all in His name....

July 29 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the man or woman who sits on death row: that the long days of their waiting might be filled by God with grace of repentance and a consecration to holiness; We pray to the Lord:

For Fr. Bob Gruss as he becomes the Vice Rector of the North American College in Rome, and for Fr, Marty Goetz as he becomes the Director of Vocations for this diocese; that through their ministry those discerning a call to priestly ministry would be helped and guided...

That we may never cease praying for those suffering from physical and mental illness.

In addition, it would be good to begin including Hai Duc Dinh and Joseph Sia, our seminarians, as they approach their ordination to the Diaconate on August 18.

“For Hai Duc Dinh and Joseph Sia, who will be ordained to the diaconate in August, that they will be filled with every grace and blessing, we pray to the Lord.”