

Dear companions at the Table,

In this issue, we continue our series on the US Bishops' document, *Song to the Lord* as well as on the upcoming new translation of the Roman Missal. Please also note information on some updated policies as well as our usual features on the liturgical calendar and upcoming events. I hope that you find that these resources are beneficial in your ministries.

For about a year now, we have been running a series on popular devotions. Is this a feature that you would like to see continued? Please let me know.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

RECIPES FOR EUCHARISTIC BREAD

This diocesan resource has been updated. The new edition is available on the diocesan website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litRecipesEucharisticBread2009.pdf>.

CONFIRMATION POLICY AND PREPARATION SHEETS

With another year of Confirmations (almost) behind us, we have taken the opportunity to make minor changes to the policy and preparation sheets. Updated versions are available on the diocesan website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm>.

RELIGIOUS GOODS AVAILABLE...

The Sisters of the Humility of Mary have available pews and other furnishings, stained glass windows, chandeliers, 2 marble altars, a tabernacle and other items from the chapel at the former St. Joseph Hospital in Ottumwa. The sisters welcome suggestions of places where they might be put to appropriate use. Please contact Sr. Joan Sheil at 563-323-9466, jsheil@chmiowa.org.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 12)

Who prepares the music for liturgy? Certainly, the priest-presider has the ultimate responsibility, but he is cautioned: “in planning the celebration of Mass, [the priest] should have in mind the common spiritual good of the people of God, rather than his own inclinations” (§119; see GIRM no. 352). Therefore, it is good for the priest to collaborate with the parish musicians and/or a liturgy committee in preparing the liturgy, in accord with the liturgical books (§120). However, the same caution applies to them as well: they need to have an understanding of theology, liturgy, and liturgical music—and to be careful to keep the good of the community (and not their personal preferences) as their motivation (§121).

In preparing the music for liturgy, ministers should keep in mind maximizing the participation of the liturgical assembly (§122) and ensuring that the various elements of the liturgy—the verbal (texts, music, homily) as well as the non-verbal (movement, vesture, color, environment, sacred objects and actions)—all work together in harmony (§123). Above all, they should remember that, “The role of music is to serve the needs of the Liturgy and not to dominate it, seek to entertain, or draw attention to itself or the musicians” (§125).

Next time: the judgments necessary for selecting liturgical music....

Our discussion of *Sing to the Lord* (available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>) will continue next month.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

In last month’s issue, I mentioned that that timeline for reviewing and approving the new Roman Missal was being accelerated. As a result, we are looking at final approval some time in 2010 with implementation in 2011. We are hoping to have at least a year to do the necessary catechesis and preparation. To that end, the Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship (BCDW), the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), and other groups are working to prepare formational materials for dioceses and parishes. I thought I would share with you what is in the pipeline....

First, the FDLC is working on three sets of resources:

1. A “workshop-in-a-box” (script, handouts, PowerPoint, etc.) for dioceses to use in their catechetical efforts.
2. A CD of the new prayers for priests, so they can hear how they ought to be proclaimed.
3. Resources for parishes (such as bulletin inserts and a leader’s guide).

Second, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is working on downloadable MP3 files of the chants from the new Missal.

By the way, those who are interested in the musical aspect of the new Missal are encouraged to visit the ICEL website: <http://www.icelweb.org/musicintro.htm>. You can also link to that site from our webpage dedicated to the new Missal: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>.

Third, the BCDW is working with the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC) to develop and sponsor regional workshops that will not only cover the textual changes that are coming, but help priests develop the necessary skills to be effective leaders in a time of change. I am in conversations with Dubuque to see if we will be able to help host such a conference.

And, speaking of conferences, please recall that the November 2009 clergy overnighter will feature Fr. Paul Turner, who has been serving as a consultant to the translators. He will be speaking on the new Missal—so, priests and deacons, please make a special effort to be there.

Fourth, the Leeds Group (a group made up of bishops from all English-speaking countries) is developing DVD and CD resources as well.

Finally, publishers are working on pew resources, music, and catechetical materials.

So, a lot of time and effort are going into developing sound resources to help us through this time of transition... which brings me to the practical point: budgets.

I would like to encourage parishes and pastors to remember to include the purchase of resource materials (and the new Missal) in their budgets. Your 2009-2010 and especially your 2010-2011 budgets should begin to reflect this additional need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOKING AHEAD: LENT AND TRIDUUM 2010

The Rite of Election will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21, in Davenport and Sunday, February 28, in Ottumwa. There will be a single celebration in Davenport; both rites will begin at 3:00 p.m.

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on March 22 at 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated on April 3. The Vigil may not begin before 7:30 p.m. that night.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Liturgical Music Conference at Loras

It's not too late! Please visit <http://www.loras.edu/liturgicalmusic/> for more information and to register for Loras College's Liturgical Music Conference: *Sing to the Lord a New Song-Giving Voice to the Theology of Liturgical Music*.

North American Forum on the Catechumenate

The Forum will be returning to Davenport on July 24-25, 2009, for a workshop on Mystagogy. Please reserve those dates. The flyer and registration brochure are now available on the diocesan website under Liturgy Events (address above).

LITURGY PREPARATIONLITURGICAL CALENDARThe Transfiguration

The Feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on August 6 – which is also the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, when nature itself was transfigured in mockery. Perhaps as we gather for Eucharist or pray the Hours this day we would do well to pray for peace and that the horrors of that August 6 sixty-four years ago will never be repeated.

The Assumption of Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated on August 15, falls on a Saturday this year. Ritual Masses are still prohibited but a Funeral Mass may be celebrated. Therefore, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated. Please see below for a brief description of devotional practices associated with this feast.

INTERCESSIONS

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

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

(2) Monthly intercession for vocations:

For a full appreciation of the gift of ministry within the Church, and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life; we pray to the Lord:

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

July 5 14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
That, clinging to Christ alone, we would be prophets of justice; we pray to the Lord:

July 12 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
The men in our deacon formation program, along with one of our seminarians, will celebrate the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders today.

For those men in our diocese being called to Candidacy for Holy Orders today, that God who has begun this good work in them would bring it to fulfillment. We pray to the Lord.

July 19 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
That those called to shepherd the People of God would do so justly; we pray to the Lord:

July 26 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
That the world’s hungry would be fed; that we would be generous with our resources; we pray to the Lord:

POPULAR DEVOTIONS

THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

One of the popular traditions associated with the Assumption is the Blessing of Fruits and Herbs (*Directory on Popular Piety*, #181):

This custom... represents a clear example of the genuine evangelization of pre-Christian rites and beliefs: one must turn to God, through whose word “the earth produced vegetation: plants bearing seeds in their several kinds, and trees bearing fruit with their seed inside in their several kinds” (Gen 1:12) in order to obtain what was formerly obtained by magic rites; to stem the damages deriving from poisonous herbs, and benefit from the efficacy of curative herbs. This ancient use came to be associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, in part because of the biblical images applied to her such as vine, lavender, cypress and lily, partly from seeing her in terms of a sweet smelling flower because of her virtue, and most of all because of Isaiah 11:1, and his reference to the “shoot springing from the side of Jesse,” which would bear the blessed fruit of Jesus.

In the United States, the rite for use within or outside of Mass may be found in the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 59: “Order for the Blessing of Food or Drink or Other Elements Connected with Devotion.”

A rite for use at home can be found in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, page 170 in the first edition and page 312 in the new edition.

Please see these sites for more activities and information:

Catholic Culture: <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/>

NCRLC: <http://www.ncrlc.com/12-months/August-prayers.html>

If you have received this newsletter in error, or no longer wish to receive *LiturgyNotes*, please contact Laurie Hoefling at the chancery and request to be removed from our distribution list.

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