

Dear companions at the Table,

I have just returned from the national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, the professional group for directors of diocesan liturgy offices and the like. As expected, there was a great deal of discussion about the upcoming new edition of the Roman Missal. I was struck by the tremendous positive energy at the meeting. The new Missal is the next step in the reforms called for by Vatican II; it is not—as some naysayers would have us believe—a step backwards or a repudiation of the Council. While no translation is ever perfect, the new Missal promises to be a real blessing for the Church. While the overall changes are not extensive, the introduction of a new Missal will give us the golden opportunity to re-visit liturgical catechesis in our parishes and help our parishioners grow in a deeper appreciation of and participation in the “source and summit” of our life together. I am excited to be a part of such an undertaking; the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and I pledge our full energies to this project. Please see the article below for some more information.

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

NEW BUILDING AND RENOVATION POLICY

The Diocesan policy guiding building and renovation projects has been updated. A more formal process for obtaining feedback at the deanery level is now included and the composition of the Building Commission has been changed. The new version of the policy is posted on the Liturgy Library webpage.

YHWH IN WORSHIP

Oregon Catholic Press has made available corrected versions of their hymns affected by the decision to avoid the use of “Yahweh” in translations of scripture and in liturgical texts at <http://www.ocp.org/directive08>.

RESOURCES

November is traditionally the month set aside to remember the dead in a special way. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has educational resources regarding Catholic Funerals that would make for helpful handouts during this month. Please check out their website: <http://www.fdlc.org/Publications/Funerals.htm>.

For Prayers in Time of Financial Crisis, check out the Liturgy Notes for the Diocese of San Jose online: <http://dsjliturgy.blogspot.com/2008/10/prayers-in-time-of-financial-crisis.html>.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

As mentioned last time, the U.S. Bishops have set up a webpage to help keep us informed regarding the translation project at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/index.shtml>.

We have also established a diocesan webpage dedicated to the implementation of the new Missal. The URL is: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>.

Our webpage contains links to the various documents on the USCCB website as well as articles from this office that help to explain the process of translation and the reasons behind the new Missal. As new documents become available, we will post them there. This will be the primary site for information as the new Missal is implemented in our diocese.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 6)

After laying out the theological framework for their document, the U.S. Bishops turn their attention to the question of music in Catholic Worship. What makes music appropriate for the sacred liturgy?

First, music must be in harmony (no pun intended) with the liturgical action of which it is a part. The music must allow the rite to unfold appropriately, support the participation of all present, and not overshadow the liturgical words and actions (§68).

Second, music used in the liturgy must be spiritually uplifting. Liturgical music is not entertainment (which focuses on us) but prayer (which focuses on God). Music is meant to draw us into deeper communion with each other and with God in Christ (§69).

Finally, the ritual and spiritual aspects of music do not exist in a vacuum, but instead are incarnated in a particular cultural context. This context must also be kept in mind as music is being selected for a specific praying community (§70).

Is there a particular “style” of music that meets these criteria better than others?

According to the Bishops, it is important to draw both from the “Church’s treasury of sacred music” as well as from the works of contemporary musicians (§71). However, there is one musical genre that is particularly well-suited to Roman Catholic Liturgy, and that is Gregorian Chant (§72).

All things being equal, the Church gives “pride of place” to Gregorian Chant as the musical style best suited to the Roman Liturgy (§73). Of course, “all things being equal” means that the congregation is able to participate in the sung Liturgy. So, the Bishops are NOT calling for a wholesale abandonment of our current hymns; what they are calling for is a greater familiarity with Gregorian Chant in all parishes—in order to foster the unity of the Church and to fulfill Vatican II’s call that all should be able to at least sing the Mass parts in Latin (§§74-80).

At the same time, the Church celebrates the genius of musicians of our own day, and encourages them in their ministries. Composers are encouraged to find their inspiration in the texts of Scripture and the Liturgy and to be true to Catholic teaching. If musicians faithfully reflect this “scriptural, liturgical, and creedal context” in their music then they will be able to lead the assembly to encounter the divine, regardless of the musical genre (§§81-85).

Next time: Instruments...

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

“St. Paul for Our Times”

November 13-15 at St. Edward Parish, Waterloo.

The conference will be conducted by Fr. Jay Harrington, a native of St. Edward Parish and a Dominican friar of the Central Province of St. Albert the Great. An evening session will be held on Friday, Nov. 14, 7:00-9:00 P.M.; a morning session will be held on Saturday, Nov. 15, 9:00 A.M.-Noon, both in the Church Hall at St. Edward Parish. The two sessions will cover different perspectives on Paul, but it is not necessary to attend both sessions. There is a registration fee of \$5 for each session. For information contact Dave Cushing at 319-234-9912.

Liturgy, Devotions and Popular Piety

Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 9:00 A. M. - 3:00 P.M. St. Pius X Church, Cedar Rapids.

The goal is to provide a greater understanding of the difference between devotions and the liturgy of the Church. It will be based on the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy. Public and private prayer will be discussed as well as a history of certain devotions that enjoy prominence in the Church. This workshop is for anyone who prays. Cost: \$25 per person. Contact: Dubuque Archdiocese worship office (563-556-2580 / E-mail: DBQCWHsec@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us).

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. A flyer is now available on the diocesan website under Liturgy Events.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Precatechumenate and Catechumenate

As the name implies, the *Rite* of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Most RCIA teams are well aware that the transition from the Precatechumenate to the Catechumenate is celebrated through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA §§ 41-74), and that the transition from Catechumen to one of the Elect is celebrated in the Rite of Election, preceded by the Rite of Sending (§§ 106-117). There are analogous celebrations for those baptized in other Christian communities who are journeying to full communion (§§ 411-458).

During the Catechumenate (see §§ 75-80 for introduction), a number of other rites are available for those not baptized that you may want to use. A number of these may be celebrated by the catechist rather than requiring an ordained minister; please see the texts in question for details.

- Celebrations of the Word of God (§§81-89)
- Minor Exorcisms (§§ 90-94)
- Blessing of Catechumens (§§ 95-97)
- Anointing of Catechumens (§§ 98-103).

In addition, the Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer may be celebrated during this time if necessary (§§ 104-5).

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, observed from January 18-25, invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” (John 17:21). The theme for this year’s Week of Prayer is “That they may become one in your hand,” taken from Ezekiel 37:15-19, 22-24a. For more information and for resources, please go to http://www.geii.org/wpcu_index.htm.

Thursday, January 22: Day of Penance (see GIRM #373)

The anniversary of the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision is observed in all dioceses of the United States as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass “For Peace and Justice” (#22), from “Masses for Various Needs and Occasions” should be used. The readings are taken from the Lectionary, volume IV, #887-891. The Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions IV is suggested. Violet vestments are to be worn. Resources for observing this day can be found on the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/index.shtml>.

Please consider using the following (from Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto) as part of your Prayer of the Faithful, as appropriate:

“That the scourge of abortion be lifted from our land, that those who promote it may be brought to a change of heart, that all who are tempted to abortion may be lovingly helped to protect the precious gift of life, and that all who have experienced an abortion may be comforted with the healing gift of love.”

St. Paul Vespers

The Diocese is invited to gather at St. Paul the Apostle Church on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate Vespers (Evening Prayer) in honor of St. Paul. Since the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul also closes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will be joined in prayer by the pastors and people of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Davenport. Their senior pastor, Rev. Peter Marty, will preach that evening along with Bishop Amos, who will preside.

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:

That parents, by their lives and example, may encourage Church vocations among their children; we pray to the Lord.

(3) A special intercession for the weekend after elections:

For all newly elected leaders, that they will govern in such a way to promote peace, tranquility and dignity for all people....

(4) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Dec 7

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all of us gathered here, that we work to remove the mountains of our selfishness, and fill in the valleys of our lack of care and indifference, so there is nothing between us and Christ as he comes....

Dec 14

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all who live in deserts of poverty and despair, that they may be encouraged by our prayers and efforts to help them....

Dec 21

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For all parents, that as they respond to God as freely and totally as Mary did and they teach their children the Gospel way of life.

Dec 28

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

That like Simeon and Anna we would proclaim the presence of Christ among us in word and deed....

POPULAR DEVOTIONS

The Epiphany is an important feast around the world; in some cultures, the customs surrounding the Epiphany are as or even more elaborate than the customs surrounding Christmas. As I mentioned last time, in my culture of origin, the Epiphany was the primary day for gift-giving (echoing the gift-giving of the Magi).

One of the customs at Epiphany time is the home blessing, using chalk blessed at Mass on the Epiphany.

The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: 20+C+M+B+XX above the doorways: 20XX for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.”

Accompanying prayers can be found on our diocesan website, in both PDF and MS-Word versions:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litEpiphanyChalkBlessing.pdf>

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litEpiphanyChalkBlessing.doc>

As far as parish life is concerned, the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* strongly recommends “the solemn proclamation of Easter and the principal dominical feasts; its revival in many places would be opportune since it served to make the connection between the Epiphany and Easter, and orientate all feasts towards the greatest Christian solemnity” (§118).

The text and music are given in the Sacramentary Supplement and in LTP’s *Sourcebook*. The text is also available on-line (please see the Liturgy Events webpage for the link: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>).

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.

Phone: 563-324-1912 x267

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org