

Dear servants of the liturgy,

I would like to call your attention to a few items. First, please don't forget that we are celebrating our diocese's 125th anniversary at the end of the month. I would hope that as many of us as possible will attend. It is crucial that we remember that, as Catholics, we are more than individual congregations. The diocese is our "local church"—and it is a joy and privilege to gather as such. Second, please be aware of the upcoming FDLC meeting in Omaha. The Archdiocese is holding their liturgical assembly concurrent with the FDLC meeting—so there will be a rich variety of formation opportunities from which to choose. We have expanded our collection of intercessions to include prayers for vocations. Finally, please note the liturgical guidelines for Christmas; we covered Advent in the last issue.

As always, please know how much your ministries are appreciated—and that this office is ready to help you in any way we can.

Happy Anniversary!

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

A FEW WORDS FROM THE U.S. BISHOPS

The Bishops' Committee on Pastoral Practices

This committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has been studying the question of fostering greater attendance at Sunday Mass. After wide consultation, they have published a number of suggestions that parishes can implement. I will reprint one of the nine suggestions in each issue of the *LiturgyNotes*:

#2 Be intentional about getting to know the community. Practice hospitality. Recognize important moments in the lives of parishioners [and the community]. Sponsor grass-roots listening sessions, conduct a parish-wide census, institute a monthly "Pasta with the Pastor" evening, establish a one-to-one ministry of support and care (such as Stephen Ministry), divide the worship space into zones and make it a goal for the parishioners to know everyone in their zone by the end of the year, hold neighborhood liturgies followed by a common meal.

LITURGY SURVEY

Thanks to all who have responded to the survey. If you have not yet done so, there is still time to get your answers to us. I will report the results of the survey next month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON SEPTEMBER 30TH

We will gather at Le Claire Park in Davenport to celebrate our 125th Anniversary as a diocese. We will begin with Mass at 8:00 a.m. at St. Anthony Church, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to LeClaire Park (beginning at approximately 8:30 a.m. and arriving at the park by 9 a.m.). Our keynote speaker is Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey who specializes in preaching with youth. Steve Angrisano, one of the leading Catholic recording artists in the United States and well known among younger Catholics will provide music throughout the day. We'll also hear from a number of folks from around the diocese regarding our history, and music by Lynn Cooper. The Hispanic and Vietnamese communities of our diocese will also be featured, as will guests from the Diocese of Antsirananana, Madagascar. Food and drinks will be available for purchase; we ask that participants support the parish ministries that will be providing this service. In addition, we are encouraging every parish and school to set up a display honoring their history. A tent-chapel for Eucharistic adoration will be available the entire day. The daylong celebration will conclude with Mass at 4:00 p.m. Come and celebrate our “walking together in faith.”

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions: Annual Meeting

To be held on October 10 – 13 in Omaha, NE. While the focus of the convention will be on liturgical music and the art of celebrating the liturgy, there will be break-out sessions on a wide variety of liturgical topics. Since our region is hosting this gathering, all are encouraged to attend. More information is available on the FDLC website: www.fdlc.org.

Liturgical Opportunities for Youth

Among the needs often expressed around the diocese is the need to foster the involvement of youth in the Church, and particularly in the liturgy. Here are two youth summer “camps” that can help in this area:

(1) Youth in Theology and Ministry (YTM)

Held at St. John's University in Collegeville, MN, “YTM is a camp for high school youth who want to deepen their understanding and practice of their Catholic faith.” The two-week experience includes theology classes, service learning projects, and prayer. Please see their website at www.ytm-sju.org.

(2) Youth Liturgical Leadership Program

Sponsored by St. Meinrad School of Theology (St. Meinrad, IN), this program seeks to “reach out to young adults and provide them with the tools necessary to become effective leaders in their parishes and communities...by laying strong foundations in liturgy and prayer.” The

cornerstone of the program is the week-long One Bread, One Cup Conference, held three times each summer, involving high school participants as well as college interns. Please see http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/programs_youth_ovr.aspx for more information.

LITURGY PREPARATION

BCL RESOURCES FOR ADORATION OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

The US Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy has prepared three model "holy hours" for parish use. Each focuses on a particular theme: for life, for vocations, and for peace. They can be found on the web at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/holyhours.shtml>.

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.

Oct. 1st 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For repentance from deceit and a love for the truth: that all [Catholics] might defend the sacred gift of life; we pray to the Lord:

For all young people of our parish who are making lifetime choices at this time; we pray to the Lord:

For all ordained and lay ministers of the Church, that they would never be jealous of each other's ministry, but rejoice in the good work being done by God in the lives of his people; we pray to the Lord:

Oct. 8th 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For every child conceived this week in our parish: that through our prayers and actions that tiny and vulnerable person might be nourished in safety and love; we pray to the Lord:

For all families, that they may have a positive regard for vocations to the priesthood and religious life; we pray to the Lord:

For all who have known the pain of separation or divorce, that they may receive the healing they need in their lives and the strength to forgive past hurts; we pray to the Lord:

Oct. 15th 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For President Bush and all who govern this nation: for the courage to defend the innocent and the wisdom to protect the weakest among us; we pray to the Lord:

For all seminarians, especially those of our diocese, as they prepare for a lifetime of service in the Church; we pray to the Lord:

For all those who have been blessed with material wealth, that they would prize wisdom above all their worldly possessions and be generous in using their riches to help those in need; we pray to the Lord:

Oct. 22nd 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For doctors who struggle to do what is right, and for their patients: that the Gospel of Life might be their guide; we pray to the Lord:

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, diaconate and lay ministry, especially within our diocese; we pray to the Lord:

For the suffering, that they would trust in the constant companionship of Christ, who himself walked the dark valley of affliction and is full of compassion, and so receive consolation in their hardship; we pray to the Lord:

Oct. 29th 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For legislators who work to preserve the life and liberty of every human being: that God bless their efforts to enshrine that conviction in American law; we pray to the Lord:

For all priests, especially those of our diocese, that they may provide an example and guidance to all youth; we pray to the Lord:

For all who have fallen away from the Church, that they would be brought back and gathered together to worship in faith; we pray to the Lord:

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Christmas

1. God reveals God's self to us as the One who loves us. The feast days during Christmas remind us of this revelation and seek our response to it.
2. The color is white or gold, and it is ideal if vestments and fabrics used are different from those used at Easter.
3. A good Penitential Rite is Rite C, #iii.
4. Sing the Gloria the entire season. The carol "Angels We Have Heard On High" may not replace the Gloria.
5. Christ is present here and now. TODAY is born our Savior. Avoid historicizing. For example, use Christmas music with good theology for the whole season (ex. Hark the Herald Angels Sing) and avoid historical settings (O Little Town of Bethlehem).

6. Make sure your decorating reflects all that is important: the Word, the people...Enhance the whole building, not just the sanctuary. Remember: less is more!

7. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for behavior.

8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season. The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing/proclaim these texts, which may be found in the *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons* from Liturgy Training Publications:

- a. At Christmas Midnight Mass, after the greeting and introduction, the “Proclamation of the Birth of Christ” is sung or proclaimed. The Gloria immediately follows.
- b. On Epiphany, the “Proclamation of the Date of Easter” is sung or proclaimed after the homily or after the prayer after communion.

9. The crèche does not go under the altar or even in the sanctuary. It is OK to put out a crèche that represents the whole story; there is no need to have "traveling kings". Please see the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 48, §1544:

“If the manger is set up in church, it must not be placed in the presbyterium. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible by the faithful. (The presbyterium is that part of the church where bishops, priests and ministers perform their ministry. This would be the altar, ambo [pulpit], and presidential chair area of the sanctuary. The placement of the crib should not interfere with the dignity and function of these areas. Likewise, the crib should not impede a minister from getting to the tabernacle.)”

Additional information can be found in the GIRM §299 and in *Built of Living Stones* §§124, 125, and 128.

Looking Ahead to Lent and Easter

Ash Wednesday falls on February 21, 2007.

For those who need to start planning, the Rite of Election will be celebrated in Davenport on February 25 (1st Sunday of Lent) at 3pm and 6pm and in Ottumwa on March 4 (2nd Sunday of Lent) at 3pm.

The Easter Vigil, celebrated on April 7, may not begin before 8:30 p.m. and must conclude by 5:30 a.m. on April 8.