

LiturgyNotes – September 2005

Dear friends,

As I settle into this new ministry, I am trying to discern how I can best serve all of you “in the trenches.” I see that my role – both as a deacon and as the director of liturgy for the diocese – is to support each of you in your ministries. This newsletter is one way that I hope to do just that.

If you have questions that you think ought to be answered in this format, if you have ideas for what should be included, if you know of individuals who should be receiving this, please let me know. (Right now we are sending it to the clergy, pastoral associates, and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission – and asking that the parish leaders distribute it internally as they see fit.)

I look forward to meeting more and more of you as I travel around the diocese, and to hearing back from you how this office might be of service.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Request from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

NPM is conducting a national survey called *Songs That Make a Difference*. We are trying to find out the songs that American Catholics identify as most helpful in expressing and sustaining their faith. We are inviting all American Catholics to take part in this project by logging on to the NPM web site and completing a short questionnaire. Spread the word by inviting members of your music ministry and to other parishioners to take part. You may use the text on the NPM web site to create a bulletin announcement or e-mail message of your own. Help us to find out how Catholics are being formed and nourished by the song of the liturgy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peoria Diocese Sponsoring Liturgical Workshop

Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, and the Diocese of Peoria's Office of Divine Worship, are sponsoring a Fall Diocesan Liturgical Workshop for all who exercise a liturgical ministry: sacristans, lectors, musicians, servers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, etc. The workshop will be held at St. Anthony of Padua parish in Streator on September 17th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending with lunch at noon. For more information, please call their worship office at 309-671-1561.

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From the Archdiocese of Dubuque

RCIA Workshop in November

On Saturday, November 12, Mary Birmingham will present a workshop on the “Year-Round Catechumenate” from 9:00 - 3:00 at St. Stephen the Witness Student Center in Cedar Falls. Priests, Deacons, RCIA Coordinators and team members are invited to attend. The workshop will explore ways to implement an “on-going” RCIA process by welcoming inquirers throughout the year and allowing the process to fit the needs of the individual catechumen or candidate. The cost of the workshop is \$25 which includes lunch and snacks. To register for the workshop please call the Office of Worship (563-556-2580).

John Michael Talbot Concert

St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center will present a concert by John Michael Talbot on September 16 at 7:30 P.M. at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center on the UNI Campus in Cedar Falls. John Michael’s concerts blend music, witness and teaching. As a Catholic recording artist, he has more than 40 albums, 14 books and numerous videos. The concert is one of twelve on the “Monk Rock” tour with special guest Tom Booth and Mason Proffit, featuring Terry Talbot. A new album “Monk Rock,” geared for the younger crowd, will be available. To purchase tickets call 319-273-SHOW (7469) or toll-free 877-549-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for age 18 and under. For more information about John Michael Talbot: john-michael-talbot.org.

LITURGY PREPARATION

September 11

September 11 falls on a Sunday this year. Liturgical and other resources for peace are available on the USCCB website at <http://www.nccbuscc.org/sdwp/peace/index.htm>. The resources focus on the conflict in Iraq, but may be helpful in helping prepare intercessions and preaching appropriate for the day. Please note that the readings that day stress forgiveness.

I have also been informed that the World Library Publications and J.S. Paluch Company website has resources that parishes can use free of charge. Their address is: www.wlpmusic.com. Oregon Catholic Press also provides appropriate resources at <http://www.ocp.org/en/PFTN/condole.php>.

Intercessions for Life

These intercessions are provided by the USCCB for your use. Please adapt them as you see fit.

- Sept 4: For every little child: that God might preserve them and keep them safe, and that they might ever remind us of the wonder of the gift of life; we pray to the Lord:
- Sept. 11: For mothers who are children themselves: that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, God might give them the faith and the strength to grow in wisdom, grace, and maternal love; we pray to the Lord:

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Sept. 18: For those whose desperation tempts them with death, and especially men and women contemplating suicide: that God might teach us to bring them his hope; we pray to the Lord:

Sept 25: For all prisoners, and especially those condemned to die: that faith might sustain them and give them hope; we pray to the Lord:

Advent

Advent, and the new liturgical year, begins on November 27th this year. As you and your communities begin to look ahead, I would offer the following points to keep in mind. I will provide Christmas guidelines next month.

1. With the new liturgical year, we begin the use of Cycle B in the Sunday Lectionary and Year II in the Weekday Lectionary.

2. The color of Advent is a bluer shade of violet, to distinguish it from the purple of penitence in Lent. Blue itself is not an allowed color in the U.S. Rose is an optional color for the vesture on the Third Sunday of Advent, signaling that the full joy of Christmas is drawing near. The vestments worn should not have a cross, nails, etc. on them – they should not be Lenten.

3. The Advent wreath is blessed only at the first mass, after the intercessions. See the Book of Blessings, #1509ff, chapter 47. On the other Sundays of Advent, it is lit before \Mass begins and no additional prayers are said. The traditional wreath is a circle of evergreen branches which bears four candles. The dominant tradition calls for three violet and one rose candle, but four violet or four white candles may also be used. Some communities add a fifth candle, white, for Christmas. The wreath should be large enough for all to see, but not obstruct the view of the altar, ambo or chair.

4. A good Penitential Rite to use would be Rite C, #ii.

5. Don't anticipate Christmas with music and environment. Rather, make use of a full spectrum of Advent music.

6. Don't make believe Jesus never came – focus on the second coming. Remember: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

7. Giving trees should not be in the sanctuary. Remember you can transform them for Christmas. They are better placed in the entryway or some location other than the sanctuary, lest the simplicity of Advent decor be compromised. Likewise, while Jesse trees are good for religious education they should not be in the church.

8. The *Gloria* is omitted.

9. This season should reflect quiet and a subdued peace, as well as a sense of anticipation.