

LITURGYNOTES – FOR APRIL 2013

HABEMUS PAPAM: POPE FRANCIS

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Diocesan Roman Missal Websites:

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
lit/litromanmissal.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm)

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
lit/litromanmissalQA.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissalQA.htm)

The Year of Faith:

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
yearoffaith.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/yearoffaith.htm)

We have posted various resources and information regarding liturgical observations with the election of our new pope on the liturgy website:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/index.htm>

Please note that the Supreme Pontiff is referred to as “Pope Francis” – there is no “first” until there is a second.

VERBUM DOMINI – THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Part II: *Verbum in Ecclesia*

The Holy Father begins this section (“The Word in the Church”) by reminding us that the Church *receives* the word. Likewise, as the gifts are prepared at Mass, we are reminded that what we offer is first of all gift: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have *received* the bread we offer you... for through your goodness we have *received* the wine we offer you....” That’s what it means to be a creature: all that we have and are is a gift from God, calling forth a response.

How do we respond to the gift of God’s word? Do we, as the Pope says, allow ourselves to be shaped by this word, to thereby become a new creation (50)? Or do we harden our hearts to it? There is a great dynamic tension here: we are free to receive or reject this word. How will we choose? God’s definitive utterance of the Word in Christ Jesus is not a one-time event lost in the past. Rather, as Pope Benedict says, “The relationship

between Christ, the Word of the Father, and the church... is a living relationship that each member of the faithful is called to enter into” (51). In a striking passage, Pope Benedict states: “In the word of God proclaimed and heard, and in the sacraments, Jesus says today, here and now, to each person: ‘I am yours, I give myself to you’ so that we can receive and respond, saying in return, ‘I am yours’” (51). So, it is the liturgy that is the privileged locus of encounter with the divine Word. That encounter transforms us; and having received such a gift we make the return gift of living Eucharistic lives. We are called to respond to the word by proclaiming it in turn to the world. Listening first, we become heralds of the Gospel. Part II continues with a deeper exploration of the liturgy, which we will cover next month.

PREACHING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: THE SUNDAY HOMILY

Preaching does not occur in a vacuum. The preacher must be attentive not only to the local community—and to the liturgical feast—but also to the wider culture. Preaching in the United States will necessarily be different than preaching in Argentina... or the Philippines... or Tanzania... or Japan.

Before setting out their teaching on the Sunday Homily, the US Bishops provide a ‘snapshot’ of the cultural milieu in which we preach, and the challenges that this milieu raises for the proclamation of the Good News. They note that many Catholics (perhaps especially among younger generations) are indifferent to or disaffected with the Church and her teachings, for a variety of reasons. While they mention the scandal of sexual abuse within the church, they also note the strong emphasis on the individual over the community, the focus on material satisfaction over the spiritual life, and a spirit of relativism that denies the possibility of absolute truth or enduring values that color life in this country. The Bishops also observe that the sharp polarizations in our political life, the growing gap between rich and poor, and the persisting racism and prejudices which color our common life also affect parishes as well. Further challenges to preaching the Gospel include the cultural and ethnic diversity found in many of our parishes as well as a tendency for many Catholics to be uninformed about the Church’s teaching.

It is in, and into, this context that we preach, a context that makes it difficult to hear the Good News. Therefore, the US Bishops are calling for a renewal in the preaching ministry—including the spirituality of the preacher.

A REQUEST...

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL IN NEED OF VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

Assumption High School (Davenport) is looking for a votive candle stand for their chapel. If anyone has one that they are no longer using, they would love to find something gently used at a reasonable price. Anyone that might have something like this can please feel free to contact Principal Bridget Murphy via email (Murphyb@mail.assumption.pvt.k12.ia.us) or by phone (563-326-5313 x 289). Thanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Upcoming Ordinations

To the Priesthood: May 25, 2013.

Please include Rev. Mr. Jake Greiner in your prayers as he approaches ordination to priestly ministry for our diocese. For example:

For Jacob Greiner, as he enters into priestly ministry for our diocese. We pray to the Lord.

That Jacob Greiner would be filled with every grace and blessing as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood. We pray to the Lord.

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For Jacob Greiner; that his ministry as a priest in the Diocese of Davenport would bear good fruit. We pray to the Lord.

To the Diaconate: July 13, 2013.

Please note: Due to the number of people expected, attendance at this liturgy will be by ticket only.

Year of Faith Happenings

Please see the Year of Faith calendar for special commemorations around the diocese:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/comm/commlib/DODYearofFaithschedule.pdf>

or

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/yearoffaith.htm>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: DIOCESAN WEBINARS

Members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission will present the following webinar at 2:00 p.m. on:

- **Tuesday, May 7:** Liturgical Music (registration information will be forthcoming)

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday

Resources (in Spanish and English) from the USCCB for observing Divine Mercy are available on our website's Liturgy Events page.

The direct URL's for resources in English are:

Notes & Quotes:

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

Holy Hour:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/lit2013DivineMercySundayHolyHour.pdf>

Para recursos en español:

Notas y extractos:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/litDivineMercySundayNotesandQuotes-SP.pdf>

Hora Santa Eucarística:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/lit2013DivineMercySundayHolyHour-SP.pdf>

Pentecost (Holy Spirit) Novena

If parishes wish to observe a novena for Pentecost, here are some helpful resources:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=1039>

http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/pentecost/seven_tx.htm

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

These links are also available on our Liturgy events webpage.

INTERCESSIONS

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

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

(2) Intercession for vocations (in English and Spanish) linked to the Lectionary cycle may be found at the For Your Vocation website:

<http://www.foryourvocation.org/vocation-directors/liturgical-resources.cfm>

(3) Lectionary-based intercessions focused on social justice can be found at the Center of Concern website:

<http://www.coc.org/ef>

(4) The Center for Liturgy website offers general intercessions for each Sunday as well:

<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

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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