

LITURGYNOTES – FOR AUGUST 2012

THE YEAR OF FAITH: VATICAN II AND THE LITURGY

SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM – CHAPTER I

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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)

In the first chapter of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (CSL), the Council Fathers laid out the general principles for the restoration and promotion of the liturgy. We can summarize the overarching principles as follows:

First, the liturgy is the work of Christ, who is present in minister and assembly, in word and sacrament. The whole Church acts in the person of Christ, the priest specifically in the person of Christ the Head (§§6-7). Rather than Christ's real presence being confined to the Eucharist, the Council made it clear that the liturgy is about encounter with the Savior as we join with Him in offering praise, thanksgiving, and the sacrifice of our lives to the Father.

Second, while liturgy is not all that the Church does, all that the Church does flows from and leads back to the liturgy. Evangelization, catechesis, social action, administration, personal prayer and devotion – these never stand alone, apart from the liturgy (§§9-13). In fact, if the ministries of the Church are isolated from the liturgy, they wither and die—like a branch separated from its vine.

Third, while the following of liturgical laws and rubrics is necessary, that alone is not enough. "All the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy," and is their right and obligation (§14; see also §11). This aim is to be considered before all else, and requires the formation of the clergy (§§14-20).

This section does not give presiders permission to do whatever they want, but demands from them more

than robotic actions and speech. Presiders ought to *pray the liturgy* and lead the assembly in that prayer in such a way that invites their understanding and their full – body, mind, spirit – participation. By their liturgical style and skills, presiders either help us encounter Christ, or hinder us from doing so (see <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Resources/litFromPerformerToPrayer-English.pdf>).

It is also important to keep in mind that “participation” does not mean that everyone needs to be doing everything, or even some particular liturgical ministry. Participation is first of all internal—a matter of the heart—before it is ever external if it is to be authentic.

Finally, the Council recognized that there are certain elements of the liturgy that are divinely instituted, and therefore unchangeable, while there are other elements that do change over time and are therefore able to be adjusted if they do not help the Church express her faith and worship God in a way that is understandable and invites participation (§21). In the next issue, we’ll continue our look at Chapter I, with the norms the Council proposed for guiding the reform of those changeable elements.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

NEW TRANSLATION OF LECTIONARY IN THE WORKS

The *New American Bible* (NAB) was first published in 1970, and it was that translation that was used when the *Lectionary for Mass* first came out that same year—reflecting the desire to have the translation that we heard at Mass, and the translation that we read at home or used in faith formation, to be the same.

However, over time, the various elements of the *New American Bible* were re-translated: the New Testament in 1986, the Psalms in 1991, and finally the Old Testament (including another revision of the Psalms) in 2010. Therefore, what we have now is called the *New American Bible, Revised Edition* (NABRE). At the same time, when the second edition of the Lectionary came out in 1998-2000, some adjustments were made to the NAB translation. As a result, the version of the Scriptures that we hear at Mass and the version we use for personal study and prayer, drifted apart.

So, now the Bishops want to return to the ideal of one version. For that reason, the USCCB is beginning a process of creating a single Biblical text for use within and outside of the liturgy. Once completed, it will be submitted to Rome for approval for liturgical use, and it will be published as an updated edition of the New American Bible and will be used in a new edition of the *Lectionary for Mass*.

RITE OF MARRIAGE, CONFIRMATION, AND THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

We have received “Green Books” for the revised and retranslated Rite of Marriage, and the retranslated Rite of Confirmation. The Bishops will be voting on those texts this Fall.

The Bishop’s Committee on Divine Worship has also announced that it is beginning to work on an updated edition of the Liturgy of the Hours – to include the *Revised Grail Psalms*, the new translation of the collects, and the additions that have been made to the Proper of Saints. There is no estimated timeline for this project.

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

I recently had the pleasure of attending a conference on Homiletics at Notre Dame, where both a keynote speaker (Dr. Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP) and the presenter at one of the breakout sessions (Fr. Jeremy Driscoll, OSB) spoke on the Holy Father’s post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini* (available at: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini_en.html or for download at: <http://www.vatican.va>

[/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini_en.pdf](#)).

By way of background, in 2008 the Twelfth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops met around the theme of *The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*. Almost two years later, Pope Benedict XVI published this “post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation” summarizing the work of the Synod and giving it direction for the whole Church.

The first section of the Exhortation centers around the God who speaks—in history, in the Scriptures, in tradition, and definitively in Christ. What is our response to this God who speaks to us? How are the Scriptures to be understood and interpreted?

The second section focuses on the Word of God in the life of Church, and especially on the liturgy as the privileged setting for encountering this Word. What are the implications of the Scriptures for prayer, for catechesis, and for living out our vocations – whether lay or ordained?

The final section turns our attention to the Church’s mission to proclaim the Word of God to the world. Rather than remaining turned inward, the Word impels us to turn outward and evangelize by our words and deeds of justice, charity, and reconciliation. How do we proclaim the Word in this time and place, in this culture?

These are some of the topics that I hope to unpack in the coming months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

The calendar is currently quiet.

CONTINUING FORMATION

Check out the Liturgy Events webpage for formation resources available from the Diocese.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LTP ANNUAL RESOURCES

LTP has announced that its annual resources are once again available. You may order your materials directly from LTP, 800-533-1900 or from Religious Supply Center in Davenport. Religious Supply is willing to provide the parishes with discounted prices. For details or to place your order, call Jim, 563-324-0669 or 800-292-0052, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m., M-F and 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. Saturday. Resources will be delivered to the Clergy Overnighter in November.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

With the start of the new school year, you may want to consider celebrating the Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers (chapter 5 in the *Book of Blessings*) within Mass or not.

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/index_sunday.html

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