

Dear companions at the Table,

Happy (liturgical) new year! May our year together with St. Mark draw us closer to “Jesus Christ the Son of God” (Mk 1:1), whose advent we await in joyful hope.

Please remember that the Diocese is invited to gather at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport, 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.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to all,

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***FOR YOUR INFORMATION...***

- Check out this new resource at the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/advent/>. There you'll find prayers, devotions, and other activities to help you keep the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- Bulletin inserts explaining the RCIA observances in Lent can be found on the diocesan website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litLentBulletinAnnouncements.pdf>. They are in PDF format but can be “cut and paste” into word and adjusted for your parish's needs.
- Flu season is here... so you may want to review the USCCB's “Ten Questions on Influenza and the Liturgy” at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/influenza.shtml>.

***“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 7)***

The primary liturgical instrument is the human voice; all other instruments are used only as an extension of and support to singing (§86). Among musical instruments, the pipe organ enjoys pride of place (§§87-88) but other instruments are not excluded (§§89-90). While the primary use of instruments is to support singing, there may be times when instrumental music is appropriate—such as a prelude to worship. However, it must be remembered that silence is a key component of liturgy; not every silent space needs to be filled with music (§91). Liturgy requires authenticity; therefore, recorded music has (with very rare exception—such as during long periods of silence during a communal reconciliation service) no place in the communal worship of God's people (§§93-94).

Next time: Where should the musicians be located?

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

### ***THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL***

One of the advantages of the new translation of the Missal will be clearer allusions to the Scriptural texts used in the prayers and dialogues. To help us make those connections, the USCCB has produced an annotated version of the Order of Mass, Part I. This resource is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/WhiteBookAnnotated.pdf>.

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

#### CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

#### National Association of Pastoral Musicians

The 2009 National Convention—“Sing to the Lord”—will be held in Chicago from July 6-10. Please see their website (<http://www.npm.org/>) for details.

#### 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 and registration brochure are now available on the diocesan website under Liturgy Events.

### ***THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS***

#### RCIA: THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION

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. Lent is also known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, and is marked by the celebration of several important rites.

#### For Catechumens

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election is celebrated. In order to be admitted to the Easter Sacraments, individuals must be elected by the bishop (or his delegate). By this rite, catechumens become “the elect” and enter the “period of purification and enlightenment” that culminates in the sacraments of initiation (see RCIA # 118-28). The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election should be celebrated in the parish prior to the Rite of Election. Please remember that only catechumens (not candidates) sign the Book of the Elect.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies are celebrated. These required rites should take place within the ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies” and use the Lectionary readings for Year A (see RCIA #146).

Requests to dispense an individual from a Scrutiny must be made in writing to the bishop, explaining the reason for the request. Only the bishop “may dispense from one of them for serious reasons or, in extraordinary circumstances, even from two” (RCIA #20).

The Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks of Lent, respectively.

#### For Candidates

Candidates are those who have already been validly baptized but wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. For a previous baptism to be considered valid, it must involve the use of water and the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) – and express the same belief in the Trinity as defined by the Church. Communities that baptize only in the name of Jesus (e.g. some Pentecostal communities) and those who do not share our belief in the Trinity (e.g., Mormons) are not considered to have valid baptisms. If there is a question regarding the validity of an individual’s baptism please call this office.

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, Candidates take part in the diocese’s celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion—which is preceded by the Rite of Sending Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop, celebrated at the parish. Usually, these rites are combined with those for the catechumens (see RCIA # 530-561).

A special Penitential Rite (similar to the Scrutinies) may be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent; it is not combined in any way with the rites for catechumens (see RCIA #459-63).

#### The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

The Rite will be celebrated on Sunday, March 1, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The Rite will also be celebrated on Sunday, March 8, at St. Mary of the Visitation parish in Ottumwa at 3 p.m. Please remember that the Rite of Election is not optional: one must be “elected” for the Easter Sacraments by the bishop (or his delegate). I would hope that we would see this as not just a “legal hoop” to jump through, but as a living sign of our unity as a diocesan church. *Please note:* those who are not eligible for the Easter Sacraments (e.g., those in an irregular union who have not yet received a declaration of nullity) should not celebrate the Rite of Sending or the Rite of Election (or Call to Continuing Conversion).

A more detailed letter of explanation and registration form will be sent with the January 2009 *LiturgyNotes*.

#### CONFIRMATION AND THE RCIA

(See the *Code of Canon Law* cc.882-888; also see *Priest Faculties for the Diocese of Davenport*)

As you prepare for the Easter Vigil, please note that permission must be requested for priests to confirm the following: 1. *Baptized Catholics who were instructed in or adhered to another faith by their own fault*, 2. *Baptized Catholics who were not raised as Catholic but who never belonged to any other church*, 3. *Baptized Catholics who have never left the Church but were never confirmed*.

A short letter asking for this permission should include a list of those people to be confirmed and a short explanation of the circumstances of each candidate.

Priests may confirm (without asking for permission) in the following circumstances: 1. *When he baptizes an adult (defined as anyone who has reached the age of discretion, about 7 years old), 2. When he receives a previously baptized non-Catholic into full communion, 3. When he readmits into full communion a previously baptized Catholic who apostacized from the faith, 4. When he readmits into full communion a baptized Catholic who through no personal fault was instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion.*

In order to respect the integrity of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the priest who presides over Eucharist and Confirmation is also the one who is to baptize. Therefore, another minister (e.g., a deacon or even another priest) must not baptize in this situation (see c.883.2; for an exception if large numbers are involved, see RCIA # 226).

Priests who will be presiding at the Easter Vigil outside the territory of their assignment, or if they are not assigned a pastoral charge, are reminded that they need the explicit (and not merely tacit) permission of the one in whose territory they are baptizing (pastor) in order to baptize (see canons 530 & 862) and confirm (see c.887).

All are reminded that according to the law of the Church, children who have reached the use of reason (around 7 years of age) are considered, for the purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults. Therefore, if someone who is to be baptized is deemed ready (i.e., old enough) to receive Eucharist they should be confirmed. However, according to the USCCB, candidates (those already baptized) who are between 7 and the usual age of Confirmation for the diocese usually make their First Communion and then become part of the parish's regular preparation for Confirmation.

### ***LITURGY PREPARATION***

#### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

##### Preparing for Lent

1. No Gloria is said or sung (GIRM #55); specific solemnities during Lent are the exception.
2. We abstain from “Alleluia” during Lent, during the Gospel Acclamation (#62) and in other music as well.
3. It is forbidden for the altar (sanctuary) to be decorated with flowers (*Laetare* Sunday [4<sup>th</sup>], solemnities and feasts are an exception) (#305). Flowers are never to be placed on top of (on the mensa of) the altar.
4. The playing of the organ and other musical instruments is allowed only to support the singing (*Laetare* Sunday [4<sup>th</sup>], solemnities and feasts exceptions) (#313).
5. Violet or purple is the color of sacred vestments. Rose may be used where it is the custom on *Laetare* Sunday (#346).

6. In the dioceses of the United States, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (*This is simply an option; there is no need to implement this practice if not already part of parish life.*)
7. In regards to emptying fonts during Lent, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has declared "that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

"1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being *'praeter legem'* is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.

"2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The 'fast' and 'abstinence' which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

"The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday)."

### 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 today's youth may show generosity to Jesus' call and make wise decisions in discerning their vocation in life; we pray to the Lord.

- (3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Jan 4

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

That we search for Jesus in others as we share our time, talents and treasure with the needy.

Jan 11

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

That we accept the Lord's call to come to the water and journey together as a faith community.

Jan 18 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That together we would encourage peace, improve human conditions, and work for Christian unity.

*Please also consider using the following (from Archbishop Thomas Collins of Toronto) as part of your Prayer of the Faithful, in anticipation of January 22:*

“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.”

Jan 25 CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

That we answer God’s call to work for charity and justice for all who are deprived and suffering.

**POPULAR DEVOTIONS**LENT: THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Lent prepares us for Easter; for the catechumens, it is a time of more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation. For the rest of us, it is a time to support them in their journey to the font—by our works of charity, our fasting, and our prayer—and to prepare ourselves to renew our own baptismal promises.

However, as the *Directory* notes, “Popular piety does not easily perceive the mystical aspect of Lent and does not emphasize any of its great themes or values, such a relationship between ‘the sacrament of forty days’ and ‘the sacraments of Christian initiation’, nor the mystery of the ‘exodus’ which is always present in the lenten journey. Popular piety concentrates on the mysteries of Christ’s humanity, and during Lent the faithful pay close attention to the Passion and Death of Our Lord” (§124).

One of the most popular devotions during Lent is the *Via Crucis*, or Way of the Cross (§§131-133). The Stations come in many forms; from the traditional fourteen stations to modern forms that link Christ’s journey to the cross to social justice issues (§§134-135). In addition, there is the *Via Matris*, a series of seven stations that recount Mary’s sorrows (§§136-137).

*Traditional Stations:*

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/seasons/Lent/stations.cfm>

*Social Justice Stations (examples):*

(1) From Loyola College (MD) Campus Ministry: <http://www.loyola.edu/ccsj/about/service-faith%20connections/Stations%20Program%202008.pdf>

(2) From Pax Christi: <http://www.paxchristiusa.org/StationsoftheCross.pdf>

(3) Economic Way of the Cross: <http://www.cscsisters.org/justice/pdf/EconomicWayoftheCross2005.pdf>

*The Via Matris*

<http://www.thegrotto.org/viamatr.htm>

One way to link the liturgical focus of the season, and the popular desire to focus on the Passion, is to pray the Stations specifically for our catechumens and candidates. For many, this is a long and difficult journey. Sometimes, they are denied by their families and friends. Conversion brings its own pain—the cross of dying to self and old ways of being. So, perhaps we can support them on their journeys by taking this one together.

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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