

Dear companions at the Table,

Happy New Year! Even though we are just starting Advent, this issue of the *LiturgyNotes* is full of information about Lent. Nothing like planning ahead! But, in the midst of planning, let's remember—during this season of waiting in joyful hope—to spend some time in quiet anticipation rather than frenetic activity. And, in the midst of all the busy-ness, perhaps we can encourage each other and our co-ministers to do just that!

May I please invite you to keep the men discerning a call to diaconal ministry—as well as their wives and children—in your prayers? We have been holding a series of meetings around the diocese to introduce the diaconate and explain the formation program to those who are discerning such a call. This month we have our final meeting at the Chancery (St. Vincent Center), on December 16.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to all,

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

##### FLU SEASON

With flu season upon us, it may be a good time to take a look at this resource from the US Bishops: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/influenza.shtml>. In addition, please take some time to review our diocesan policies for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and for preparing for pandemic influenza.

#### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

##### MULTI-CULTURAL MINISTRY

Those engaged in Hispanic Ministry are hoping to bring CIRIMEX, a language and cultural school, to the diocese for Spanish tutoring for those working in pastoral ministry. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, or want more information, please contact Fr. Rudy Juarez at [pastor@stpatsic.com](mailto:pastor@stpatsic.com) or at 319-337-2856.

##### CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

##### *Enter the Song: a music workshop*

This February 2, day-long workshop addresses the role of cantors, song leaders and instrumental accompanists in leading and facilitating sung prayer. Please see the enclosed registration flier for more information.

## ***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 – 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, February 10, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. The Rite will also be celebrated on Sunday, February 17, at St. Patrick's (note different location this year) 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.

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 2008 *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).

While actual practices may vary widely in this diocese, 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 AND JUSTICE***

#### The Southwest Liturgical Conference: Liturgy and Justice

The Diocese of Tucson, AZ, will be hosting the annual study week for the Southwest Liturgical Conference, which will focus on liturgy and justice and peace. More information is available at: [http://www.swlc.org/association\\_pages/index-swlcassoc.html](http://www.swlc.org/association_pages/index-swlcassoc.html).

### ***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, especially during the Gospel Acclamation (#62) but including 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 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).”

### ***BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS***

You may find the following helpful as you prepare your parish bulletins or announcements. Please adapt them as is appropriate for your parish.

#### **RCIA: Rite of Sending / Election (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday for those attending the Rite in Ottumwa)**

This Sunday, we celebrate the Rite of Sending, formally asking the Church of Davenport to accept our catechumens as members of the Elect—those chosen by God for baptism—and to pray for our candidates' continued growth in the Spirit. We will then journey to (Davenport/Ottumwa) to celebrate the Rite of Election (of the catechumens) and the Rite of Recognition (of the candidates) with Bishop Amos.

#### **RCIA: Penitential Rite for Candidates (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

This Sunday, we celebrate a special penitential rite for our Candidates for full communion. Recognizing that these candidates are already baptized, we pray for the grace of further conversion of life.

#### **RCIA: First Scrutiny of the Elect (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

This Sunday, and for the next two Sundays, we will celebrate the Scrutinies. According to the Church's Rites, “the scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good.” Later this week, we will also “hand over” (*traditio*) the Creed to our catechumens, which they will then “hand back” at the Easter Vigil when they make their Baptismal Promises. Please keep all the Elect in your prayers as they make their final journey to the Easter Sacraments. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary for this and the next two Sundays.

#### **RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ.

Again, because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary.

**RCIA: Third Scrutiny of the Elect (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)**

This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Later this week, we will also hand over the Lord's Prayer to the Elect—and “wait in joyful hope” until they can pray it with us as one of the Faithful at the Easter Vigil. Because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary.

**CHRISM MASS: St. John Vianney, Bettendorf (March 10 at 5:30pm)**

You are invited to take part in one of the most special liturgies in the life of a diocese—the Chrism Mass. At this liturgy, the bishop gathers the faithful of the diocese—priests and deacons, religious and laity—around him for the blessing and consecration of the oils that will be used in all our parishes in the coming year. Here the Oil of the Sick, used to strengthen and console and heal those who are infirm, will be blessed. Here the Oil of Catechumens, used to strengthen and free those who are preparing for baptism, will be blessed. Here the Sacred Chrism, used to ordain bishops and priests, to confirm, and to dedicate churches and altars, will be consecrated. And here, too, we will witness the Rite of Recommitment to Ministry by our priests. May our presence at the Chrism Mass be a sign of our support and gratitude for their ministry—and a reminder that baptism calls all of us to lives of service.

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:

For Christian families, that they may encourage young people to discern their vocation and rejoice in doing God's will; we pray...

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Jan 6                    EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

For all nations, that they may place their best gifts at the feet of Jesus in service to the human family; we pray to the Lord...

Jan 13                    BAPTISM OF THE LORD

For all Christians, that inspired by the baptism of our Lord we might live out more fully in the world our spiritual adoption as beloved sons and daughters of God; we pray to the Lord...

Jan 20            2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In this week of prayer for Christian unity, for greater cooperation among Christians, that recognizing the universal call to holiness, we may work more closely with all those who call upon the name of the Lord Jesus in order to bring about a just society; we pray to the Lord...

Jan 27            3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all those in our world who walk in the dark and gloom of material need, that they might find in the assistance of their fellow human beings the light of God's providential care; we pray to the Lord...

This newsletter is automatically sent to the following groups in the Diocese of Davenport:

*Catholic Messenger*  
Parishes  
Seminarians

Chancery Staff  
Pastoral Associates  
Sisters

Deacons  
Priests  
DREs

Liturgical Commission  
RCIA Parish Contacts  
Youth Ministers

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.

Phone: 563-324-1912 x267

E-Mail: [hoefling@davenportdiocese.org](mailto:hoefling@davenportdiocese.org)

Previous issues of the *LiturgyNotes* are available online at:  
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litnotes.htm>