

Dear servants of the liturgy,

I hope that all are well, and that in the midst of the busy-ness of ministry you have had time for relaxation and rejuvenation this summer.

As you can see from the signature below, I have been given a new responsibility by the bishop: Director of Deacon Formation. In that new capacity, I am charged with developing and directing a new program for preparing deacons for our diocese. Therefore, while remaining Director of Liturgy for the diocese, I will no longer be at St. Ambrose. Please update your contact information accordingly.

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 will be 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. Our first meeting will be this month on the 29th at St. Patrick's in Ottumwa (2pm-5pm); next month we meet at Sacred Heart, Newton, from 1pm-4pm on Sunday, August 19.

This month we also hold our *Beginnings Plus* conference at St. John Vianney, Bettendorf. This four-day meeting focuses on the RCIA—and how to celebrate it and integrate it into parish life. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be attending there!

You probably don't hear it enough, but thank you for your faithful service to God's People in and through the liturgical life of the Church.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Anyone interested in the ministry of Master of Ceremonies for Masses with the Bishop is asked to contact me as soon as possible. It would be wonderful to have one or two persons in each deanery to help with Confirmations next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

In August, the Vietnamese Catholic community celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lavang at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, August 19, at 1:30 p.m. The celebration begins with a gathering at the shrine of Our Lady, in the cathedral courtyard, for prayer. Bishop Amos will preside at Mass; priests and deacons are invited to vest (bring white stole, please). A reception follows the liturgy; all are invited.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIESNational Association of Pastoral Musicians

Persons from the Diocese of Davenport attending the National Association of Pastoral Musicians' convention July 9-13 in Indianapolis are invited to gather for a time of unity and fellowship during the event. The convention will draw musicians, clergy, liturgists and other leaders of prayer from around the country to hear a variety of music and speakers including Father Michael Joncas, composer and arranger of "On Eagle's Wings" and nearly 200 other pieces of liturgical music. The sessions--based on the convention theme "That All May Be One"--will take place at the Indiana Convention Center. Attendees from the Diocese of Davenport interested in meeting as a group during the convention are invited to contact Karen E. Manning by phone at (309)738-7458, or by e-mail at skmanning1@aol.com.

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

The FDLC will hold its annual meeting on October 9-12 at the Sheraton Bradley Airport Hotel in Hartford, Connecticut. The focus of the gathering is *Liturgy: The Privileged Place of Catechesis*. More information is available on their website at www.fdlc.org.

The Liturgical Institute (University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein)

The following conferences are scheduled for 2007-2008; more information is available at www.liturgicalinstitute.org.

Oct 5-6: 10 Things Your Parish Needs to Know About the Sacred Liturgy
 Nov 9: Profound Preaching
 Jan 18, 2008: Treasures of the Triduum
 April 2-4: Liturgy, Justice, and Social Reconstruction
 June 22-27 Sacred Music Retreat

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

In *The Deacon at Mass: A Theological and Pastoral Guide* (Paulist Press, 2007), Deacon Bill Ditewig (who once served our diocese) offers a comprehensive reflection on the liturgical ministry of deacons at Eucharist. Deacon Ditewig, who has been the Executive Director of the USCCB's Committee on the Diaconate, does the Church a great service by providing a theologically sound and very readable text that focuses on the sacramental, and not just functional, nature of that ministry. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a better understanding not just of *what* a deacon does at Mass, but *why*.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Time for Easter Vigil 2008

For those planning ahead, the earliest that the Easter Vigil (3/22) may start is 8:00 p.m. The Vigil must end before sunrise on the 23rd (7:00 a.m.).

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 all our seminarians preparing for priestly service in our diocese, that they may persevere in their studies and preparation for ministry; we pray to the Lord.

Perhaps that intercession could be used in the latter half of the month, while during the first few weeks of August we still keep Hai Duc Dinh and Joseph Sia in prayer as they prepare for ordination to the Diaconate on August 18:

“For Hai Duc Dinh and Joseph Sia, who will be ordained to the diaconate this month, that they will be blessed and supported in their call to serve the Lord and the Church, we pray to the Lord.”

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Aug 5 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who defend the innocent in our courts and for all who labor to put an end to violence.

Aug 12 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who turned away from our faith community or any religion because of negative experiences.

Aug 19 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who teach and care for children, that they may have the gifts of wisdom, creativity and generosity.

Aug 26 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That we welcome the stranger with Christian hospitality so that these brothers and sisters may find acceptance and understanding on their journey.