

Dear liturgical ministers,

As you know, Pope Benedict has inaugurated the Year for Priests as a way to highlight the ministerial priesthood, support those who serve us as priests, and encourage vocations to this essential ministry in the Church. Please see the website that the USCCB has established—<http://www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/index.shtml>—for more information, including prayer resources.

As always, please know of my prayers for you and my deep appreciation for the time and effort that you all put into the liturgical life of our Church. I hope that this newsletter and the work of our office and Commission are in some way beneficial to you. Please do feel free to let us know how we might better be of service.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Because the Assumption falls on a Saturday this year, it is not a Holy Day of obligation. However, please keep the following in mind as you prepare for your liturgies on the weekend of August 14-16:

	Liturgy of the Hours		Eucharist	
	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer	Morning	Evening
Friday 14	Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe	EP I for the Assumption	Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe	Vigil of the Assumption
Saturday 15	Assumption	EP II for the Assumption	Assumption	<i>See Note below.</i>
Sunday 16	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	EP II for 20 th Sun in Ordinary Time	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Note: According to the USCCB, if parishes normally celebrate the Mass of anticipation (Sunday Mass) on Saturday evening, they should do so as well this weekend. However, according to the Table of Precedence and in the judgment of Bishop Amos, it is also appropriate to celebrate the Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption. Either Mass fulfills the Sunday obligation.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHCs)

Please recall that EMHCs must be delegated by the local bishop (*Redemptionis sacramentum* §155; see also CIC c.230 §3) and commissioned according to the prescribed rite (*Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States* §28; see *Book of Blessings* §§1871-1896). The request for delegation must state that the EMHCs have been properly prepared (theologically, spiritually, and practically) for their ministry. Please know that the Office of Liturgy is available to provide formation for EMHCs for parishes, clusters, or deaneries. More information is available in our diocesan policy, available at:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litExtraordinaryMinistersHolyCommunion2007.pdf>.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 13)

How do we go about choosing music for our worship? How do we answer this key question: “Is this particular piece of music appropriate for this use in the particular Liturgy” (§126)? Those charged with preparing the liturgy are asked to make three judgments in this regard: the liturgical, the pastoral, and the musical.

- The liturgical judgment is this: Does this song meet both the structural and textual requirements of the rite (§§127-29)? Does it fit, and help the liturgy “do” what is supposed to do at that point?
- The pastoral judgment includes the following (§§130-32): Does the music help the people enter into the liturgy and pray? Does it express their faith and draw them closer to Christ? Are they able to sing it? Does it fit the community in terms of the culture, language, and education of the people?
- The musical judgment requires special competence in the field of music, and asks (§§134-36): Can this music “bear the weight” of the liturgy—or is it trite and cheap? Is it “technically, aesthetically, and expressively” of high quality? Does it lift us up—or appeal to the lowest common denominator?

Next time: we begin our discussion of the musical structure of Catholic worship...

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

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

As you probably know by now, the voting on the latest drafts of the Missal translation at the US Bishops meeting last month was inconclusive, so “absentee ballots” have been sent to those bishops who didn’t make it to Texas. It is expected, however, that the necessary votes will be gained and this set of books sent on to Rome. The Bishops will vote on the final set of drafts at their November meeting.

In the meantime, I have posted six articles by Fr. Dan Merz of the Diocese of Jefferson City, MO, on our website (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>). Originally written for their diocesan newspaper, the *Catholic Missourian*, they are reproduced on our website by his kind permission. I hope that you find them helpful and informative.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Conception Abbey Music Conference

Conception Abbey (Conception, MO) is hosting a “Music in the Liturgy” Workshop August 10-13. This workshop is aimed at diocesan worship/liturgy directors, those responsible for the liturgical music at their parishes, or for anyone who is interested in learning more about music in the liturgy. Please click on the following link to learn more and download the official brochure and registration form: <http://www.conceptionabbey.org/news/upcoming-events/42-upcoming-events/292-music-in-the-liturgy-workshop>.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Observing Labor Day: September 7

Parishes may want to take the opportunity to celebrate the Mass for the Blessing of Human Labor (Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #25). The Preface would be for Independence Day and Other Civic Holidays I-II, the readings taken from 907-911, and the vestments white.

The *Book of Blessings* also offers a number of opportunities. Pastoral visits could be made to places of work, and the following rites could be used: (18) Blessing of an Office, Shop, or Factory; (23) Blessing of Technical Installations or Equipment, and (26) Blessing of Fields and Flocks.

Or, at Sunday Masses or at Mass on Labor Day itself, workers could bring the tools of their trades to be blessed, and (24) Blessing of Tools or Other Equipment for Work be used.

Special attention should be paid to laborers and those seeking work during the Prayer of the Faithful, as should those who are treated unjustly in the workplace. For example, the following intercessions / litany may be used or adapted (modified from those written by Patrick Gorman, Director of Worship for the Diocese of Madison, and printed in “Putting Labor into Labor Day Services” [National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice], reproduced with permission):

Priest Celebrant: Friends, let us offer our prayer to God, who pronounced all creation good, who sent the Son to live and work as one like us, and who calls us to serve the poor and those oppressed.

Deacon/Reader: For all those who work; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who are unemployed or underemployed, or have lost their jobs because of changing economic conditions; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who work in hazardous conditions without sufficient protection; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For migrant workers and all who work the land; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For all employers, that they may seek to provide a just work environment; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who face discrimination, harassment, or abuse in the work place; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

For those who must balance job commitments with the needs of their family; let us pray: (Lord, hear our prayer)

Priest Celebrant: Loving God, through your Son you gave us an example to love one another as he loved us. Give us the strength to continue working to reveal your reign here on earth – a reign of justice and peace, kindness and compassion, grace and mercy. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. (Amen)

September 11

A special “Blue Mass” for police officers and firefighters, remembering those who have given their lives for others, may be celebrated today. The Mass *For Those Who Serve in Public Office* (#18) may be used.

Other Masses for Various Needs and Occasions that may be considered for use this day include:

- 22. For Peace and Justice
- 42. For Promoting Harmony

In addition, the Mass for the Dead may be celebrated, recalling all who lost their lives on September 11, and since, due to terrorism and war.

Finally, it would be good to remember the dead and those who continue to suffer the after-effects of 9-11 as part of the Prayer of the Faithful on the previous or following Sunday as well. For example:

- For those who died on September 11, 2001; for their families and friends who mourn them; we pray to the Lord:
- For those who serve others at the risk of their own lives; we pray to the Lord:
- For an end to terrorism and violence; for peace among nations; we pray to the Lord:
- For the grace of forgiveness; for the healing of broken spirits and wounded souls; we pray to the Lord:
- For those overwhelmed by sorrow or fear; for those who work for reconciliation; we pray to the Lord:

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 pastors and parish priests of our diocese, that they will recognize the gift of a call to priesthood in other men and invite them to priestly service; we pray to the Lord:

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Aug 2 18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For those who are hungry, whose only bread is their tears; we pray to the Lord.

Aug 9 19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
That prophets for justice would be upheld and protected from despair; we pray...

Aug 16 20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For the wisdom to see the face of Christ among the poor; we pray...

Aug 23 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For the courage to forgive, and to loose those we have bound by our anger; we pray...

Aug 30 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For the grace to be doers, and not just hearers, of the word; we pray...

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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