

LITURGYNOTES – FOR JUNE 2014

FROM THE USCCB AND FDLC:

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New Webpage: Liturgical Formation
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litformation.htm>

Rite of Marriage Workshops

The BCDW Secretariat and the FDLC are planning fourteen workshops (one in each region) on the revised Order for Celebrating Matrimony. The English translation and the U.S. Adaptations were approved by the U.S. Bishops at their November 2013 meeting and the texts have been sent to the Holy See for approval.

We are hoping to offer one of these workshops in our region; details will be posted as soon as they become available – but you may want to set Tuesday, May 5, 2015 aside.

In the meantime, all those helping couples prepare for marriage may find the following website from the USCCB helpful: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/>.

There is a great video there on the Rite of Marriage: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/saying-i-do-what-happens-at-a-catholic-wedding/> (FYI: the USCCB is looking to do something similar for the funeral rites as well).

FDLC Associate Membership

Did you know that FDLC membership is available for parishes and individuals? Associate members receive:

- E-Newsletter – a one -year subscription
- Discount on Publications (25% off)
- Discount on Registration to the FDLC National Meeting
- Access to the Member Pages of the FDLC Website
- Access to free resources e-mailed to members
- Networking with other members in your region

A registration form is available at:

<http://www.fdlc.org/membership/membership.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Combined Ordination this June

In a combined rite on June 7, Bishop Amos will celebrate ordinations to the Diaconate and Presbyterate for our diocese. Deacons Kevin Anstey, Bob Cloos, and Chris Young will be ordained to the priesthood while seminarians Bill Roush and Guillermo Treviño will be ordained as deacons. The liturgy will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 10:00 a.m.

Here are some possible intercessions for inclusion in the Universal Prayer:

For those who will be ordained this June for ministry in our diocese; we pray to the Lord:

That those who will be ordained to the diaconate and priesthood this June will faithfully follow the Good Shepherd as they serve the Diocese of Davenport; we pray to the Lord:

CONTINUING FORMATION FOR LITURGY / LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Liturgy Day: September 27, 2014

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Tim O'Malley of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. He will also lead a breakout session for youth and youth ministers. Other breakout topics include multigenerational preaching, liturgy and justice, and parish music ministry.

Registration is now open – please visit our webpage

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>

You may register (and pay) on-line or submit your registration and payment by mail. Please note that minors also need to submit a consent form.

Diocesan Choral Festival: November 16, 2014

In observance of the Memorial of St. Cecilia (actually observed on Nov. 22), we are planning on inviting parishes and schools to send their choirs to a choral festival. Details are still being worked out, but if you are at all interested in participating, please let me know by e-mail (agnoli@davenportdiocese.org) or phone (563-888-4257).

To All the World: Preaching and the New Evangelization: Notre Dame; June 25-27, 2014

The details of the conference program may be found on their website:

<http://theology.nd.edu/graduate-programs/the-marten-program/conferences-and-events/to-all-the-world-preaching-and-the-new-evangelization/>

National Association of Pastoral Musicians: July 14-18

NPM will be holding their annual meeting in Saint Louis this year, with the theme: Proclaim the Good News! More information is available on their website: <http://www.npm.org/>.

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions: October 1-3

Save the date... the FDLC will also be holding their annual meeting close to us: just outside of Chicago! The focus for this gathering is the RCIA, and will include a consultation on the National Statutes... so if you want to have a voice in the revision of this important guiding document, plan on attending!

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

RESOURCES

Liturgy and the New Evangelization (Liturgical Press, 2014)

What's the connection between liturgy and the new evangelization? This short (only 150 pages) and very readable book, Timothy P. O'Malley – who will be our keynote speaker at the September Liturgy Day – effectively and convincingly addresses this question. As O'Malley notes, the new evangelization is much more than adopting new pastoral or catechetical programs, enhancing “catholic identity,” or using social media; it is about the transformation of all of human existence through an encounter with Christ (O'Malley, 2). That encounter and transformation begins – and finds its richest manifestation – in the liturgy. Therefore, if we are to engage in this new evangelization we must also renew liturgical practice and formation so as to better foster this transformative encounter, an encounter that makes us into a people willing and able to embrace our Eucharistic vocation of grateful service in the world, of self-giving love. How so? Through a renewed attention to beauty. God attracts, God does not compel; God woos; God does not force. Here is the most forceful challenge to liturgical ministers and assemblies: are our liturgies *attractive*? Or do they repel?

As Pope Francis has stated in *Evangelii gaudium*: “The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving” (#24).

If there is one book that liturgy committees and liturgical ministers read this year, this ought to be the one – not just in preparation for our September meeting or for the “Year of Worship” proposed by the USCCB, but in order to help their parishes and parishioners answer the call to the new evangelization....

Connecting Pulpit and Pew (Liturgical Press, 2014)

Karla Bellinger's thesis is that there is a disconnect between “pulpit and pew” when it comes to preaching in the Catholic Church, a disconnect that she calls the “Loud Silence.” Essentially, those who preach and those who listen to preaching aren't talking to each other, both in terms of homily preparation (as Pope Francis reminds us: preachers need to contemplate the people as much as the Scriptures) and in terms of feedback. Such a lack of connection is concerning because her research found that in the parishes she studied there was a “direct correlation between the amount of conversation that surrounded the homily and the quality of that homily” (p. 123).

More specifically, preachers tend to overestimate their skills and underestimate the degree to which the assembly values the homily, and so do not make the homily (and homily preparation) much of a priority. Listeners say that good preaching is transformative; it has an impact. Poor preaching—if we are lucky—is simply tuned out; in the worst case, it can be alienating (see *Preaching the Mystery of Faith*, p. 2):

We are also aware that in survey after survey over the past years, the People of God have called for more powerful and inspiring preaching. A steady diet of tepid or poorly prepared homilies is often cited as a cause for discouragement on the part of laity and even leading some to turn away from the Church.

At the same time, many of the concerns that those in the assembly have can be easily addressed by returning to the basics of oral communication: have a single point, be organized, use accessible language instead of theological jargon, deliver it well (good eye contact, speak clearly, be enthusiastic). Content-wise, listeners will attend to those who will make connections to daily life, to the real problems, issues, and questions that they are facing (Bellinger, Table 7c, p. 97).

Earlier this year, I sent a survey to all the priests and deacons of the diocese regarding their preaching practices and attitudes. Unfortunately, the response rate was dismally low: 17.7% of priests and 30.8% of deacons (total 22.3% of clergy). There was some good news in the survey; in a number of areas, the values and approaches that these preachers profess line up nicely with Pope Francis in *Evangelii gaudium*. However, the survey also confirmed what Bellinger found in her research: in spite of what the Church has had to say on the matter, those in the pulpit are not (for the most part) taking the time to intentionally listen to those in the pews when it comes to preaching.

What to do? On the one hand, we can return to the U.S. Bishop's 1982 document, *Fulfilled in Your Hearing*, which called for the formation of homily preparation/feedback groups in parish. On the other, we can use those opportunities that we already have with folks in the parish—such as staff, parish council, finance council, and various committee meetings—to pray the Scriptures together and share insights (group *lectio divina*). Regardless of the approach, the conversation needs to get started.

Perhaps preachers and a group in the parish (staff, parish council, others) would want to read through *Connecting Pulpit and Pew* together?

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Liturgies of Lent and Triduum 2015

The Rite of Election will be celebrated at St. Patrick Church in Iowa City on the First Sunday of Lent – February 22, 2015 – at 3:00 p.m.

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday, March 23, at 5:00 p.m.

Next year, the Easter Vigil falls on April 4, and the earliest it may begin is 8:15 p.m.

“SECURING” THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

As some of you might have heard on the news or read on the web, a group at Harvard University was going to hold a “black mass” during which a consecrated Host would be desecrated. As it turned out, no such event took place. However, the story does raise the question for us regarding the proper securing of the Blessed Sacrament to prevent (as much as is possible) such desecration. This concern requires us to look at both communion practices as well as how we reserve the Sacrament.

Regarding communion, this might be a good opportunity to remind parishioners that the Host is to be consumed *before* stepping away from the communion minister. In other words, one bows, steps forward, receives, communes (if received in the hand), and then steps away to allow the next person to step forward. This might also be a good time to look at the practice in some places of presenting a pyx during the communion procession to be filled by the minister. First, the minister may not know the person with the pyx, which creates an awkward situation. More importantly, it deprives the community of taking part in the formal dismissal of ministers with the Eucharist for the sick and homebound, which is an important sign of our concern for and connection to those who cannot be present for Mass.

Regarding reservation, the Church’s legislation is clear. Canon 938 spells it out:

§3. The tabernacle in which the Eucharist is regularly reserved is to be immovable, made of solid and opaque material, and locked so that the danger of profanation may be entirely avoided.

§4. For a grave cause, it is licit to reserve the Most Holy Eucharist in another safer and becoming place especially during the night.

§5. The person who has charge of the church or oratory is to see to it that the key of the tabernacle in which the Most Holy Eucharist is reserved is safeguarded most diligently.

For example, the key should not be left in the lock or out in the open, even between Masses.

COMMUNION MORE THAN ONCE PER DAY

How often may someone receive Communion in a single day? If the second reception is at Mass, then twice per day is allowed (c. 917). The requirement that the second reception be only at Mass is waived if the person is in danger of death (c. 921). So can someone receive Communion at two Masses in the same day? Yes.

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) keyed to the lectionary cycle may be found at the Diocese of Arlington website:

http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx

(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/>

(5) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops offers intercessions and homily ideas as part of their Pastoral Initiative for Life and Family:
<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/3296-documents-and-activities-proposed-by-the-ccb>

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