

Dear servants of the liturgy,

Two-hundred and seventy-one. That's how many candidates and catechumens registered to celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion this year. As a Diocesan Church, let us pledge to keep these sisters and brothers who are journeying to the Easter Sacraments in our prayers this Lent. Let us be a shining example of what Church is supposed to be!

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### *FOR YOUR INFORMATION...*

#### PREPARING FOR LENT AND EASTER

A new resource has been added to the USCCB Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy website, [www.usccb.org/liturgy](http://www.usccb.org/liturgy): "Jews and Judaism in the Liturgies of Lent and Holy Week." Please review the resources there as an aid to preaching and praying our liturgies without falling into inadvertent anti-Semitism.

#### Draping of Crosses and Statues during Lent

If your parish has the custom of doing so, please know that 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. If this is not already customary, there is no reason to begin doing so now.

#### Penance Services and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated in three ways: private confession (Form 1), private confession in the context of a communal celebration of the Word (Form 2), and general absolution (Form 3). In addition, non-sacramental penitential services are encouraged in the *Rite of Penance*.

Form 1 is the normative form of the sacrament. Therefore, even if Form 2 is celebrated, individual penitents must be allowed to make a complete (integral) confession. Likewise, Form 3 is to be used in emergencies only—and never as a scheduled event or as a routine. In his 2002 letter "*Misericordia Dei*" Pope John Paul II clarified the conditions for granting general absolution and the concept of "grave necessity." A copy of the letter can be found at: [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/john\\_paul\\_ii/motu\\_proprio/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_motu-](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/motu_proprio/documents/hf_jp-ii_motu-)

proprio\_20020502\_misericordia-dei\_en.html. If recourse is ever made to Form 3, the bishop is to be informed and penitents ought to be reminded that they must celebrate the sacrament in its normative form as soon as possible and before receiving general absolution again.

In my travels around the diocese, I have been moved by the way priests in the deaneries cooperate with each other to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation available—especially by making themselves available for Penance Services during Advent and Lent. What a testament to priestly ministry! If availability or scheduling issues are tempting a turn to Form 3, may I suggest conversations among neighboring pastors to arrive solutions that both meet pastoral need and respect the norms of the Church. I am happy to assist in any way I can.

### Confirmation at the Vigil

Just a reminder that pastors must have the permission of the bishop to confirm the following at the Easter Vigil: (1) Baptized Catholics who were instructed in or adhered to another faith by their own decision, (2) Baptized Catholics who were not raised as Catholics but who never belonged to any other Church, and (3) Baptized Catholics who have never left the Church but were never confirmed. (Special permission is not needed to confirm an adult [defined as age 7 or older] whom the pastor baptizes or receives into the Church, a Catholic returning to full communion after apostacizing [i.e., renouncing the faith and not adhering to another], or a Catholic returning to full communion who was instructed in or adhered to another religion through no personal fault of their own). If you have any questions regarding which category applies, please give me a call and we can talk through it. If there is any doubt, it is better to receive the proper delegation in writing from the bishop.

### Easter, already!?!?

Even though it is only the beginning of Lent, it is probably not too early to begin thinking about the Easter Season. Some thoughts from our diocesan *Ordo*:

- The days of the Easter Octave are celebrated as solemnities. The double *alleluia* is added to the dismissal and its response (just for the octave; not for the entire season). The Sequence is required on Easter Sunday but optional on the other days of the octave.
- Have the neophytes (the newly baptized) sit in a special place during the Easter Season. Remember them in the intercessions. Please see *RCIA* # 244-251.
- The paschal candle should be kept by the altar or ambo, and lit during liturgies until Evening Prayer II on Pentecost.
- The Easter Season is a great time to celebrate infant baptisms at the Sunday liturgy, and to use the Sprinkling Rite instead of the Penitential Rite.
- This is also a traditional time for home blessings (see *Book of Blessings* #1597-1621).
- Remember: we “fast for 40” but we “*feast for 50!!*”

### *A REQUEST...*

Fr. Charles Fladung asks if anyone has a “used” white cope and humeral veil in good condition; St. Joseph Parish, East Pleasant Plain, is in need of a set of these vestments. He may be reached at 319-456-3161. Thanks!

## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

### CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Wednesday, April 5, at 4 p.m. I would ask that we all encourage the members of our parishes—especially those in the RCIA or preparing for Confirmation—to attend this beautiful and important liturgy.

Parishes will be asked whether they want the same amount of the Sacred Oils that they received last year, or if they wish to change their order. The “default” amount is 2 ounces of each Oil (8 ounces of Oil of the Sick for hospitals); parishes can also request an extra 8 ounces of Chrism.

This is probably a good time to reiterate what care and reverence is due to the Sacred Oils. It is intended that the Sacred Oils blessed at the Chrism Mass be used for the coming year. The new oils are to be received by the parish on Holy Thursday, at the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, and the old oils are to be disposed of properly.

#### *How are the oils to be received?*

A rite for the Reception of the Holy Oils Blessed at the Chrism Mass can be found at the USCCB’s website: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/holyoils.shtml>. The oils are presented as part of the procession of the gifts, before the bread and wine. The presentation can be accompanied by words of explanation followed by a sung response.

#### *How are the oils to be disposed of reverently?*

The Sacred Oils from the past year are to be burned—either in an oil-burning sanctuary light or in another oil lamp in the church, or in the new fire at the Easter Vigil. If such burning is not possible, the oils may be buried in the ground in a place that is unlikely to be disturbed.

#### *What if we run out of oil during the year?*

In the first place, there is no reason to anticipate that a parish would ever be without the Oil of Catechumens or Oil of the Sick: the priest may always bless oil for a particular celebration (note: such oil is not to be “stored” like oil blessed at the Chrism Mass; it is disposed of after the rite for which it was blessed in the manner described above). If it is anticipated that a large number of individuals are to be confirmed and the parish has insufficient Chrism, more may be brought by the Bishop to the celebration. Also, the diocese does keep any extra Oils – so if the need arises, just give us a call and we can make more available to you.

In extreme situations, more oil may validly (though not licitly) be added to the blessed oil to increase its volume—as long as the unblessed oil makes up less than 50% of the resulting mixture. As mentioned above, it is the intention of the Church that the Sacred Oils are to be replaced each year with a fresh supply blessed at the Chrism Mass. Therefore, there really should be no recourse to “old oils” that are kept around. (After all, oil does go rancid.) Bottom line: replace the oils; bless more for particular rites if needed; don’t plan on adding more.

*What about displaying the oils? Shouldn't we have a generous amount available?*

The practice of displaying the Oils is indeed commendable. Unfortunately, many of the companies that sell ambry sets make bottles that contain far more oil than a parish will ever use in a year. As noted above, simply adding more oil (old blessed Oils or unblessed oil) for display purposes does not seem to be the best approach. Perhaps some of the volume can be made up with glass beads or marbles? If different colored marbles are used, that may be a way to visually distinguish the Oils as well. I would love to hear from the parishes that display larger volumes of the Oils what other ideas they might have. For example, in the future, should the diocese make more oil available at the Chrism Mass? Thanks!

#### CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

##### Workshops for Readers/Lectors

Mr. Ken Miller, of St. John Vianney Parish, has kindly volunteered to offer lector training programs in the diocese. His program has been quite successful at his home parish, and he is now ready and willing to “take it on the road.” His program was reviewed and approved by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. If you are interested in having Mr. Miller at your parish or deanery, please contact him at: [KJMCAM99@aol.com](mailto:KJMCAM99@aol.com) or at 563-332-8404. He may also be contacted through St. John Vianney parish.

A Calendar of Events (please see the February *LiturgyNotes* for details and websites)

##### *RCIA*

Miracles, Mystery, Promise 2006: Claiming the Vision of RCIA. June 8-9 in Tinley Park, IL  
Focus on Initiation: Concerning the Baptized. July 20-22 in Ankeny, IA (near Des Moines)

##### *Notre Dame Center for Liturgy*

Liturgy and Spirituality: June 19-21

SummerSong 2006: July 9-21

##### *Form / Reform*

July 30 – August 2 in Kansas City, MO.

##### *Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions: Annual Meeting*

October 10 – 13 in Omaha, NE.

#### ***LITURGY PREPARATION***

#### INTERCESSIONS

##### Ordination

Rev. Mr. Bruce DeRammelaere is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Please include him in your Prayer of the Faithful, especially as that date draws closer.

Intercessions for Life

These intercessions are provided by the USCCB for your use. Please adapt them as you see fit.

March 5<sup>th</sup> FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

For doctors and all who have assisted in the abortion of a child, or in the suicide of a person who was old or weak: that they might turn from the shadow of death and embrace the light of the Gospel of Life. We pray to the Lord:

March 12<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For those who are old and sick and in pain: that they might seek solace in the cross of Christ, and trust every day in our love and respect for the great gift which they are to us. We pray...

March 19<sup>th</sup> THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

That through the intercession of Our Lady of the Annunciation, all expectant mothers might trust in the love of God for the child in their womb. We pray...

March 26<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

That God might give us the grace to repent of all sins against life, to renounce all shadows of the culture of death and to rejoice in the Gospel of Life which God has given to us. We pray...

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1 is the Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Franklin. “Each year in the cathedral church and in all the churches and communities of the diocese there is to be a celebration of the bishop’s episcopal ordination” (*Ceremonial of Bishops*, #1167). Since it is a Lenten weekday, the Mass for the Bishop (Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, I. For the Church, 3. For the Bishop) is celebrated.

An announcement before Mass, or in the bulletin, could be made: “Today marks the anniversary of Bishop Franklin’s episcopal ordination. We pray today in thanksgiving, and for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit as we walk together in faith.”

The following may be added to the intercessions: “For Bishop Franklin on the occasion of his anniversary of episcopal ordination, that the Lord would continue to bless and guide him as he shepherds us. We pray to the Lord.”

***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 Franklin.

**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 (not Cycle B) 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 (not Cycle B) 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 (not Cycle B) of the Lectionary.

**CHRISM MASS: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport (4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5)**

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.