

LITURGYNOTES – FOR MAY 2015

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NEWS FROM THE USCCB & FDLC

Copies of the *Homiletic Directory* (see below) are now available for pre-order from USCCB Publishing, at: <http://store.usccb.org/Homiletic-Directory-p/7-517.htm>

FDLC Region IX will meet next week (May 4-5) at Conception Abbey; I'll mention any results of note from that meeting in next month's issue.

RESOURCE: HOMILETIC DIRECTORY

Summary §§4-8

Part I of the *Directory* places the homily in its liturgical setting, the privileged (but not only) setting where God speaks to us. Because it is part of the liturgy, the homily "is also an act of worship" as well as a "hymn of gratitude" – a way to glorify and praise God (§4). More than that, preaching is "sacramental" – that is: "Christ is present in the assembly gathered to listen to his word and in the preaching of his minister, through whom the same Lord who spoke long ago in the synagogue at Nazareth [Lk 4:21] now instructs his people" (§4; see *Verbum Domini* 56). Because it is an integral part of the liturgy, preaching the homily is reserved to those ordained to lead the Church's worship, which does not exclude lay preaching in other contexts and under special circumstances (§5).

Paragraph 6 lists what the homily is *not*: a lecture or speech, a sermon on an abstract topic, an exercise in biblical exegesis, catechetical instruction, and personal witness on the part of the preacher. However, "this does not mean that topical themes, biblical exegesis, doctrinal instruction, and personal witness have no place in preaching; indeed, they can be effective as elements in a good homily" (§7). In addition, the homily must both be directed to the needs of the specific assembly as well as draw inspiration from the life of that community; that is, it is thoroughly contextual (§8; see *Evangelii gaudium* 139).

Next time: "What, then, is the homily?"

Response

It is always good to hear church documents reminding us that Christ's presence in the liturgy is not limited to the mode of the Eucharist, but that Christ is also present in the modes of the gathered assembly, the presider, and – germane to this topic – the word proclaimed (including the preaching). I appreciate the document also reminding us that, contrary to pre-Vatican II practice, the homily is an integral part of the liturgy – it is not an interruption. And, as all liturgy, it is an act of worship. The ambo

is another altar. The contextualization of the homily – both in terms of liturgy and in terms of the assembly – is an important development in contemporary homiletics. Of course, preaching that honors these contexts requires time and study, which places a great responsibility on those of us who would dare exercise this ministry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Ordination

Ordinations of three seminarians to the diaconate and presbyterate will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. Deacons Guillermo Treviño and Bill Roush will be ordained to the presbyterate and Ross Epping will be ordained to the diaconate.

Please consider including the candidates for ordination in your intercessions, for example:

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

TeamRCIA: August 14-15, 2015 – St. Patrick, Iowa City (6:30pm Friday to 4pm Saturday)
(<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm#Formation>)

Registration is now open!

Our conference will focus on “Making Disciples” - the basic process and skills needed for RCIA... a great review for veterans and the perfect introduction for ‘newbies’! This offering aims to help participants:

- *Discover how the RCIA is a powerful conversion process
- *Learn how to apply the core principles of the RCIA to any faith formation process
- *Acquire the skills to build an evangelizing parish that involves the entire community in the RCIA
- *Know how to recruit and build a thriving RCIA team
- *Learn how to grow a pool of passionate, engaged sponsors

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

LITURGY PREPARATION

UPDATING YOUR PARISH LITURGICAL LIBRARY

It is that time of year again: new priest assignments have been announced, and the work of letting go and moving on has begun. During this time of transition, let us keep our priests—and parishes—in prayer. With such changes taking place, this is a good time to look through your parish liturgical library and see what is in need of updating. Here is a list of important books to have on hand:

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

In addition, here are two other bibliographies that you may find helpful... resources for liturgical study and resources for preaching:

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

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

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Amos

The anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Amos (June 7), observed as a Feast in the Diocese, will be celebrated on June 8 (Monday) this year. The Mass “For the Bishop” (Masses for Various Needs and Occasions I. For the Church 3. For the Bishop) with its appropriate readings should be celebrated. It would also be appropriate to include a particular petition for the Bishop as part of the Prayers of the Faithful on the Sunday Masses of that weekend; for example: “For Bishop Amos on the celebration of his 14th anniversary as a bishop; that the Lord will continue to bless him and guide him as he shepherds us. We pray to the Lord.”

Lent/Triduum 2016

Next year, *Ash Wednesday* falls on February 10.

We will celebrate the *Rite of Election* at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Sunday, February 14 at 3pm (1st Sunday of Lent) and at St. Mary of the Visitation in Ottumwa on Sunday, February 21, at 3pm (2nd Sunday of Lent).

The *Chrism Mass* will be celebrated on Monday, March 14, at 5pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The Triduum falls on Thursday, March 24 through Sunday, March 27 – with the *Easter Vigil* falling on the night of Saturday, March 26. On that night, the earliest that the Vigil may begin is 8:15pm.

INTERCESSIONS

Here are resources for the Universal Prayer:

(1) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>

(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>

(6) See also our website for prayer resources in times of crisis:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm#Prayers>

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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