

LITURGYNOTES – FOR DECEMBER 2010

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

In this issue...

- Workshop registrations due ASAP!!
- Pew Card orders
- RCIA: The Period of Purification
- Confirmation and the RCIA
- The Season of Lent
- Intercessions for January

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URGENT!! Diocesan Workshop Registrations Due

Registrations for the January deanery workshops were due on December 1. It is imperative that we hear from you immediately if you are planning on attending one of these workshops. Arrangements for lunch need to be made, a task made a little more challenging by the intervening holidays.

The January workshops are to be held in the Davenport, Grinnell, and Iowa City Deaneries. To date, I have only received registration forms and payment from 7 entities. If we do not hear from the rest of our parishes by Monday, December 13, we may need to cancel the workshops... so please get your registrations in ASAP!

Registrations for the February workshops (Keokuk, Clinton, and Ottumwa Deaneries) are due by January 3.

Pew Cards - Orders Needed ASAP

Parishes, schools, and religious communities are invited to join in a bulk order of pew cards from FaithCatholic.

These pew cards contain the people's parts of the Mass, and can be viewed at:
<http://www.liturgicalcommission.org/catalog.asp?categoryid=19>.

We will be ordering the folded version with all-black print (#PC3). They come in bundles of 50 (special diocesan pricing: \$7.50 per pack = 15 cents per card).

Please e-mail me to let me know as soon as possible how many cards you want to order. I would like to place our order when we return from the Christmas holiday (in order to plan their printing run, the company needs to hear from us by December 31).

USCCB Implementation Guides

The *Guides* were sent with representatives of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission to each of the deaneries for distribution. Pastors: please let me know if you did not receive your copy.

Diocesan Roman Missal Website -
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>.

Start date for new Roman Missal: November 27, 2011
None of the new texts may be used until then!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

See information on the Rite of Election below.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA: THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION

As the name implies, the *Rite* of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Lent is also known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, and is marked by the celebration of several important rites.

For Catechumens

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election is celebrated. In order to be admitted to the Easter Sacraments, individuals must be elected by the bishop (or his delegate). By this rite, catechumens become “the elect” and enter the “period of purification and enlightenment” that culminates in the sacraments of initiation (see RCIA # 118-28). The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election should be celebrated in the parish prior to the Rite of Election.

Please remember that only catechumens (not candidates) sign the Book of the Elect.

On the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies are celebrated. These required rites should take place within the ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies” and use the Lectionary readings for Year A (see RCIA #146).

Requests to dispense an individual from a Scrutiny must be made in writing to the bishop, explaining the reason for the request. Only the bishop “may dispense from one of them for serious reasons or, in extraordinary circumstances, even from two” (RCIA #20).

The Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the 3rd and 5th weeks of Lent, respectively.

For Candidates

Candidates are those who have already been validly baptized but wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. For a previous baptism to be considered valid, it must involve the use of water and the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) – and express the same belief in the Trinity as defined by the Church. Communities that baptize only in the name of Jesus (e.g. some Pentecostal communities) and those who do not share our belief in the Trinity (e.g., Mormons) are not considered to have valid baptisms. If there is a question regarding the validity of an individual’s baptism please call this office.

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, Candidates take part in the diocese's celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion—which is preceded by the Rite of Sending Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop, celebrated at the parish. Usually, these rites are combined with those for the catechumens (see RCIA # 530-561).

A special Penitential Rite (similar to the Scrutinies) may be celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of Lent; it is not combined in any way with the rites for catechumens (see RCIA #459-63).

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

The Rite will be celebrated on Sunday, March 13, at St. Patrick Church in Iowa City, beginning at 3 p.m. Please note that we are trying something new this year – a single Rite for the entire diocese. It will be an awesome site to see all our candidates and catechumens gathered in one place! Of course, that means that we will really need your help in getting registration information back to us next month. In the meantime, please remember that the Rite of Election is not optional: one must be “elected” for the Easter Sacraments by the bishop (or his delegate). I would hope that we would see this as not just a “legal hoop” to jump through, but as a living sign of our unity as a diocesan church. *Please note:* those who are not eligible for the Easter Sacraments (e.g., those in an irregular union who have not yet received a declaration of nullity) should not celebrate the Rite of Sending or the Rite of Election (or Call to Continuing Conversion). A more detailed letter of explanation and registration form will be sent with the January 2011 *LiturgyNotes*.

CONFIRMATION AND THE RCIA - CORRECTED AND UPDATED

(See the *Code of Canon Law* cc.882-888; RCIA National Statutes #28; also see *Priest Faculties for the Diocese of Davenport*)

Priests may confirm (without asking for permission) in the following circumstances:

1. When the person was never a Catholic:
 - a. *When he baptizes an adult (defined as anyone who has reached the age of discretion, about 7 years old), and*
 - b. *When he receives a previously baptized non-Catholic into full communion.*
2. If the person was a Catholic and left the Church:
 - a. *When he readmits into full communion a previously baptized Catholic who apostacized (whether by formal act or just by practice) from the faith, and*
 - b. *When he readmits into full communion a baptized Catholic who through no personal fault was instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion.*

As you prepare for the Easter Vigil, please note that permission must be requested for priests to confirm baptized Catholics (a) *who were not raised as Catholic but who never belonged to any other church* OR (b) *who have never left the Church but were never confirmed*. A short letter asking for this permission should include a list of those people to be confirmed and a short explanation of the circumstances of each candidate.

In order to respect the integrity of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the priest who presides over Eucharist and Confirmation is also the one who is to baptize. Therefore, another minister (e.g., a deacon or even another priest) must not baptize in this situation (see c.883.2; for an exception if large numbers are involved, see RCIA # 226). Also, priests who will be presiding at the Easter Vigil outside the territory

of their assignment, or if they are not assigned a pastoral charge, need the explicit (and not merely tacit) permission of the one in whose territory they are baptizing (pastor) in order to baptize (see canons 530 & 862) and confirm (see c.887).

Finally, according to the law of the Church, children who have reached the use of reason (around 7 years of age) are considered, for the purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults. Therefore, if someone who is to be baptized or received into the Catholic Church is deemed ready (i.e., old enough) to receive Eucharist they are to be confirmed.

However, Bishop Amos wishes to allow pastoral discretion in regard to those children who have reached the use of reason and are coming into full communion with the Catholic Church (“candidates”). If a pastor sees a genuine need to delay confirmation of these children until a later time, he may request to do so. Because this situation is so exceptional, written permission from the Bishop must be obtained if confirmation is to be delayed. There should be no delay in the reception of Holy Communion. The possibility of delaying confirmation does *not* apply to catechumens.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Preparing for Lent

1. No Gloria is said or sung (GIRM #55); specific solemnities during Lent are the exception.
2. We abstain from “Alleluia” during Lent, during the Gospel Acclamation (#62) and in other music as well.
3. It is forbidden for the altar (sanctuary) to be decorated with flowers (*Laetare* Sunday [4th], solemnities and feasts are an exception) (#305). Flowers are never to be placed on top of (on the mensa of) the altar.
4. The playing of the organ and other musical instruments is allowed *only* to support the singing (*Laetare* Sunday [4th], solemnities and feasts are exceptions) (#313).
5. Violet or purple is the color of sacred vestments. Rose may be used where it is the custom on *Laetare* Sunday (#346).
6. 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 Fourth 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 Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (*This is simply an option; there is no need to implement this practice if not already part of parish life.*)
7. In regards to emptying fonts during Lent, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has declared “that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:

“1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being *‘praeter legem’* is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.

“2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The ‘fast’ and ‘abstinence’ which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

“The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).”

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 (courtesy of Fr. Marty Goetz, Director of Vocations):

That more men and women will joyfully answer the call of the Lord to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel as priests, deacons, and vowed religious. We pray...

(3) Weekly intercessions:

January 2 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
For those suffering under the dark night of tyranny and oppression; we pray...

January 9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD
That justice would be established throughout the earth; that those blinded by hate and imprisoned by fear would be freed of the darkness; we pray...

January 16 2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
That we would point to the Lamb of God by our works of charity and justice; we pray...

January 23 3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For a healing of divisions within the Church; 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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