

Dear servants of the liturgy,

On February 2, Bishop Amos promulgated three new liturgical policies for the Diocese of Davenport; these were sent to the clergy on Friday, February 9, as part of the weekly *Clergy Notes* from the Bishop's Office. These policies are intended to assist parishes and other communities in their preparations for celebrating the liturgy—including Confirmation—with the bishop (§IV-210 Policies Relating to the Bishop in the Liturgy), to update and replace our current guidelines for deacons in the liturgy (§IV-220 Policies Relating to the Liturgical Ministry of the Deacon), and to remind the clergy of existing norms for concelebration (§IV-230 Policies Relating to Concelebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy). It is the bishop's hope that these policies “will assist us as we seek to promote the full, conscious, and active participation of all in the liturgy—a liturgy that is celebrated worthily and well.”

To review the policies, please visit the diocese's website (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/>), and look under “Resources: Diocesan Policies.”

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

THE U.S. BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL PRACTICES

This USCCB committee has been studying the question of fostering greater attendance at Sunday Mass. After wide consultation, they have published a series of nine suggestions that parishes can implement, including:

#7 Celebrate the parish's diversity. Offer Mass in designated languages and bi-lingual catechetical programs. Be attentive to celebrating special feast days. Accommodate the needs of parishioners with disabilities, including the provision of Listening Assistance Devices for liturgical celebrations, American Sign Language interpretation, religious education adapted to special needs (SPRED), and transportation to Mass. [I would also add: look at your liturgical and other spaces for accessibility as well.]

FROM THE USCCB'S BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON THE LITURGY

New Translation of the Order of Mass in Vietnamese

A new *Ordo Missae* is available for communities that celebrate the Mass in Vietnamese. This 2006 Missal replaces the 1992 translation and is available for \$23, plus shipping, from: The Vietnamese Catholic Network, P.O. Box 1408, Claremont, CA 91711. 909-447-4110.

Please note that only approved texts are to be used for the liturgy. Non-English texts must be approved by the USCCB. If such a text is not available, then it must be a text approved by another competent territorial ecclesiastical authority. For example, since there is a USCCB-approved edition of the *Order of Christian Funerals* in Spanish, it is required that that edition be used. However, since there is no USCCB approved *Rite of Penance* in Spanish, any confirmed Spanish-language edition may be used.

Five Questions on the Distribution of Holy Communion from the Tabernacle

1. Should Holy Communion be regularly distributed from the tabernacle?

No. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) makes clear that “it is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord’s Body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the instances where it is permitted, they partake of the chalice, so that even by means of the signs Communion will stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated” (GIRM #85, 283).

2. How is the participation of the faithful more clearly expressed by the reception of hosts consecrated at the same Mass?

This participation is manifested in the two great processions of the faithful at Mass (GIRM #44). In the presentation of the gifts first, the faithful present the bread and wine for the sacrifice—along with the gift of their very lives. The very same bread and wine which they have offered is then consecrated by the action of the Priest and returned to them as the Body and Blood of their Lord when they come forward in procession to receive Holy Communion.

3. What is the primary purpose of reserving consecrated hosts in the tabernacle?

Consecrated hosts are reserved in the tabernacle for the administration of viaticum, the communion of the sick, and adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist outside Mass (*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*, #7).

4. What are the roots¹ of the preference for the distribution of hosts consecrated at the same Mass?

In 1742, Pope Benedict XIV urging the promotion of frequent reception of Holy Communion, highlights the reception of Holy Communion consecrated at the same Mass when “one and the same sacrifice is shared” by the priest and the faithful (*Certiores Effecti*, #2; see Council of Trent Session XXII Ch. 6). This teaching was echoed by Pope Pius XII in his 1947 encyclical on the liturgy, commending those who “when present at Mass, receive hosts consecrated at the same Mass, so that it is actually verified, ‘that as many of us, as, at this altar, shall partake of and receive the most holy body and blood of thy Son, may be filled with every heavenly blessing and grace’ (*Mediator Dei*, #121). The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council thus taught: “that the

¹ N.B., Of course, we are speaking here of the contemporary roots; the original roots are in the early Church. It was not the ancient practice of the Church to commune from the tabernacle—such a practice crept into the life of the Church in the centuries before Trent.

more complete form of participation in the Mass by which the faithful, after the priest's communion, receive the Lord's body from the sacrifice, is strongly endorsed" (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, #55).

5. How can this goal be practically achieved?

Pastors who have implemented this provision advise that the first step is the acceptance of the ideal of enabling the faithful to receive hosts consecrated in the same Mass. The training of sacristans, ushers, greeters, and other ministers in determining the approximate size of the congregation has also been helpful in this regard.

[N.B. Pastors and parishes who are already doing this are asked to share their approaches with this office so we can be of assistance to others as they seek to do the same. I am happy to publish such ideas in this newsletter if individuals and communities would find that helpful.]

UPCOMING EVENTS

RITE OF ELECTION

Reminders have been sent to all parishes to please get their count of catechumens and candidates to us so we can prepare for the Rite of Election. In addition, instructions regarding the Rite have been sent to RCIA coordinators. Anyone who needs but has not received the instructions is asked to please e-mail (or call) Laurie Hoefling or Frank Agnoli at the diocese.

CHRISM MASS

Parishes will soon be receiving instructions regarding placing their order for the Sacred Oils. You will receive a listing of what you received last year, and ask if you want the same amount of oil or wish to change your order. Each oil will be available in two sizes: 2 oz bottles or 8 oz bottles; the "default" is 2 oz of each oil. During this time of tightened budgets, it would be quite helpful if each parish would donate \$5.00 towards the cost of the oils. Please note that this is not a fee, but a suggested voluntary gift for those who are able to do so.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Notre Dame Center for Liturgy

Information regarding these two opportunities may be found at: <http://www.liturgy.nd.edu>

Annual Conference: June 11-13

This year's conference—"A Day for the Lord: Sign of Contradiction?"—will address the relationship between cult and culture by considering what it means to "keep a day holy to the Lord." What does it mean to take seriously the obligation to keep the Lord's Day?

SummerSong 2007: July 15-27

A two-week intensive experience for liturgical music ministers.

RCIA: Beginnings and Beyond – July 19-22

A Beginnings and Beyond conference will be held in the diocese July 19-22, 2007 at St. John Vianney Parish in Bettendorf. The registration flyer was included with the December newsletter and is on the diocesan website.

FORM/REFORM: The National Conference on Environment and Art for Catholic Worship

August 1-4, 2007 in Milwaukee. THEME: Resurrection Witnesses: From Empty Tombs to New Encounters: Biblical Stories in Conversation with Architecture for Worship. Please go to www.FormReformConference.com for more information.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

PALM SUNDAY

Please consider making the integral link between liturgy and justice more tangible by ordering your palms from Catholic Relief Services. More information is available on their website at: http://www.crsfairtrade.org/act_now/view.cfm?Id=36.

INTERCESSIONS

Below please find three intercessions for each Sunday of the month. The first is an “intercession for life” provided by the USCCB. The second is an intercession for vocations, courtesy of the vocations office. Finally, there is an intercession written by a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and inspired by the readings of the day. Please use and/or adapt them as you see fit.

March 4 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

For the safety of all children: that God might give us the grace to recognize the infinite value of every human life, from conception to natural death; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians will love God fundamentally, from their heart and in the choices they make according to their state in life and natural gifts...

That we, your Church, find Jesus in his glory not only within these sanctuary walls but also in those who need our help and support...

March 11 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT

For scientists, that they may use their God-given talents to alleviate suffering and participate in God’s creative love; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians will fulfill their purpose in life by cooperating with God’s plan in creation, providence in redemption, and gifts in sanctification...

That we, your Church, recognize the holy ground in each step we place upon the earth...

March 18 4th SUNDAY OF LENT

That by prayer and penance, all Catholics might intercede for those whom the world has forgotten, ever proclaiming the Gospel of Life; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians will appreciate the talents and skills used in career or employment and recognize them as gifts of God for the upbuilding of God's Reign on earth...

For those who find it difficult to forgive—within families and among the nations...

March 25 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

For a growing love for the cross of Christ, that we might join our suffering to his, and see in the lives of those in pain a gift to all who follow the Lord;

That all Christians will enjoy a sense of fulfillment and joy during their lifetime on earth, in using their God-given gifts for God's glory...

That we, your Church, may be quick to protect and slow to condemn...