

LITURGYNOTES – FOR FEBRUARY 2014

COMMUNION FROM THE TABERNACLE

In this issue...

- Communion from the Tabernacle
- Pope Francis and the Homily
- Diocesan Liturgies... Rite of Election... Chrism Mass...
- Diocesan Events... Liturgy Day 2014... Choral Festival...
- The RCIA: Mystagogy
- Liturgical Calendar... Triduum ... Easter Time... Pentecost...
- Resources for the Universal Prayer

CONTACT:

Deacon Frank Agnoli, MD, DMin
Director of Liturgy &
Director of Deacon Formation
E-Mail: agnoli@davenportdiocese.org
Phone: 563-888-4257

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

As we have pointed out many times before, routine communion from the Tabernacle is a poor liturgical practice and contrary to liturgical law. A recent article by Jesuit liturgical scholar Robert J. Taft—an Eastern-rite Catholic—reminds us again of how this practice works against what it is that the Eucharistic liturgy is all about.

The article, published in *Worship* (88:1 / Jan 2014) and titled “ ‘Communion’ from the Tabernacle—A Liturgico-Theological Oxymoron,” is challenging and worth the read. He argues against, even condemns, this practice for four reasons (and he doesn’t mince his words):

1. It reflects a patent ignorance of Eucharistic theology.
2. Its origins and history are questionable.
3. It ignores the authentic tradition still observed by the Orthodox East.
4. It is a practice condemned and proscribed by the supreme authority of the Catholic Church in which it is being practiced despite these strictures.

As I am sure you know, I agree with Taft’s position; and Bishop Amos has told the pastors that they are to end this practice in their parishes. Routine communion from the Tabernacle is more often than not a surrender to convenience and efficiency, neither of which are liturgical virtues.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM – POPE FRANCIS ON THE HOMILY

Pope Francis begins by emphasizing the *liturgical context* of the homily. As such, it is less a “meditation or catechesis” on the scriptures but a moment of encounter, of dialogue with God. The Pope also points out that preaching takes place in a *particular* liturgical context, among a particular community of the faithful. As such, “[t]he preacher must know the heart of his community, in order to realize where its desire for God is alive and ardent, as well as where that dialogue, once loving, has been thwarted and is now barren” (#137). If the homily is not a catechetical lecture it is also not a form of entertainment. The liturgical context must always be respected, which means that the homily cannot be blown out of proportion time-wise, or point only to itself. The homily moves us to the praise and thanksgiving that lie at the heart of the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion. “This means that the words of the preacher must be measured, so that the Lord, more than his minister, will be the centre of attention” (#138).

The excerpts (paragraphs 135-159) are available on our Preaching Links webpage or directly from:
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Resources/litTheHomily-fromEvangeliiGaudi.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Rite of Election

Lent will be upon us soon... and with it the liturgies of the RCIA. The Rite of Election will be celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent (3/9) at Sacred Heart Cathedral (Davenport) and again on the Second Sunday of Lent (3/16) at St. Mary of the Visitation in Ottumwa. Both liturgies begin at 3pm.

We sent registration information to the parish RCIA contacts after Epiphany. If you have not already done so, please make sure to get your registration form back to us... the information was due back on January 31.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on April 7, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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. We will continue to update you on the day here and on the liturgy events webpage: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

Anne Koester, J.D., M.A. is with Georgetown University, Washington, DC, where she has been an adjunct instructor with the Theology Department since 2003. She has served as Associate Director of the Georgetown Center for Liturgy and is widely published. She will be presenting a breakout session on "*Liturgy has everything to do with life!*"

As Catholics, we are called to journey from life to liturgy and back to life again. How do we embrace this dynamic more intentionally? How do we move from life into intentionally and fully participating in the liturgy? How do we, changed by our encounter with Christ, then move back into the other 6 days and 23 hours of the week, and live lives that reflect what we have celebrated, lives of justice? Please join Ms. Koester in exploring these challenging questions.

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).

Please note that the date has been changed from November 23 due to a scheduling conflict.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

RCIA: MYSTAGOGY

In the Period of Postbaptismal Catechesis (or Mystagogy), a number of rites can be celebrated—the most important of which are the “neophyte Masses” in which all those who have been baptized at the Vigil gather together again to celebrate the liturgy. Pentecost Sunday and the anniversary of their baptism would be other special days to keep in mind. Please see RCIA #244-251.

RCIA AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS

There are times when a member of an Eastern Orthodox Church requests to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. It is important that those who work in RCIA and related ministries are aware of the important differences between an Orthodox and an Anglican or Protestant who wishes to come into full communion because there are important implications that affect other sacraments (such as marriage and orders) later. For details, please see the document, “RCIA and Orthodox Christians” found at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litRCIAOrthodox.pdf>.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Sacred Triduum: April 17-19, 2014

As preparations for the Holy Week and the Triduum get under way, please keep in mind that the new Missal calls for a number of changes. These were covered in some detail in the January 2012 *LiturgyNotes* – which may be accessed at:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/LiturgyNotes/litJanuary2012LN.pdf>.

Please also see the information on our website:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissalQA.htm#LentEaster>

Regarding the Holy Eucharist and the Triduum, please see this PDF from the Archdiocese of Newark:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/07EucharistandtheTriduum.pdf>

>Holy Thursday

The Footwashing

Information on the *mandatum* is available at the USCCB website at <http://new.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/triduum/holy-thursday-mandatum.cfm> and on our website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/litTheFootwashingQA.pdf>.

As you consider how best to choreograph this rite, please note that it is not appropriate to use the presider’s chair as a site for the footwashing.

The Reception and Care of the Oils

From the USCCB: <http://old.usccb.org/liturgy/holyoils.shtml>

From the Diocese:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Calendar/litCareandReceptionofSacredOils.pdf>

The Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament

Likewise, as you consider how best to securely repose the Blessed Sacrament after the period of adoration, the place of reposition should reflect the respect that ought to be shown to Christ's Eucharistic Presence. A random cabinet full of other material does not seem to meet that benchmark.

As noted in the document from Newark, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance is forbidden.

>Good Friday

The Missal now makes explicit what was already the case before: "This liturgy by its very nature may not, however, be celebrated in the absence of a Priest." That is, it is NEVER to be led by a deacon or layperson. The Good Friday liturgy is *not* just a "word and communion" service. If a priest is not present, one cannot substitute a communion service. A devotion such as the Stations of the Cross, or the Liturgy of the Hours, could be celebrated instead.

>The Easter Vigil

The *Missale Romanum* states that the Easter Vigil is to take place in darkness, after nightfall. Traditionally in this diocese, and according to the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in 2003, that has been calculated as 45 minutes to an hour after sunset. Therefore, *for the Diocese of Davenport, the Vigil on April 19, 2014, may not begin before 8:30 PM.*

Please note that the Paschal Candle "should be made of wax, never be artificial, be renewed each year, be only one in number, and be of sufficiently large size that it may convey the truth that Christ is the light of the world."

Easter Time and Pentecost

- 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 and on Pentecost; not for the entire season). The Sequence is required on Easter Sunday but optional on the other days of the octave.
- The Second Sunday of Easter is also celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. See the Liturgy Events webpage for resources.
- 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!!"

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>

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.

Phone: 563-888-4220

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org