

Dear Co-laborers in the vineyard,

Happy (Civil) New Year!

First, please let me apologize for the delay in getting the December issue to you. Between computer problems at the chancery, an IT staff that is working as hard as they can, and offices closed for the holidays, it took longer than expected to prepare the electronic registration forms for the Rite of Election, and I had hoped to send the form and the LiturgyNotes out together. Alas, the best laid plans.....

Second, even with its late arrival, I hope that you found the information helpful. In this edition, we'll continue to cover matters relating to the Triduum.

Thank you for your patient understanding; I look forward to any comments or suggestions.

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***FOR YOUR INFORMATION...***

THE CARE AND RECEPTION OF 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, 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.

Of course, 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. If for some reason oils from the previous year are available, they may be used in an emergency. In canonical language, they would not be licit to use, but they could be validly used.

Finally, 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.

The Commentary on the Code of Canon Law (2000) states: “The recodification suppresses, by omission, the practice of adding unblessed oil to blessed oils when the supply runs low.” At the same time, John Huels in *The Pastoral Companion* (1995), quoting BCL Newsletter 30 (1994), states, in reference to Oil of the Sick: “*In necessity*, the volume of blessed oil may be increased by adding new oil in lesser quantity, but this may not be done routinely for the sake of convenience.” According to canonists, the first statement refers to liceity; the second to validity. It is not licit to add more unblessed or unconsecrated oil (provided it is less than 50% of the mixture); but sacraments celebrated with said mixture would be valid. However, this should not be done except *in necessity* (and not, for example, just to increase the amount of oil in the vessel for the sake of appearance). The provision applies to all three oils.

Bottom line: replace the oils; bless more for particular rites if needed; don’t plan on adding more.

#### PREPARING FOR THE TRIDUUM

For those charged with preparing for the Sacred Triduum this year, I would suggest three electronic references.

First, I would suggest a careful reading of the *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* from the Congregation for Divine Worship (1988). It is available in electronic form from: <http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/CDWEASTF.HTM>.

Second, with the publication of the new Roman Missal, the rubrics concerning the celebration of the Triduum have been changed. These changes were reproduced in the January 2003 and March/April 2003 editions of the *Newsletter* from the USCCB’s Committee in the Liturgy. The documents are available at: <http://www.nccbuscc.org/liturgy/innews/012003.shtml> and <http://www.nccbuscc.org/liturgy/innews/03042003.shtml>.

I would draw your attention to what the documents say about the Paschal Candle:

“The 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.... The candle is then prepared in rites which are no longer optional.” In other words, we are asked to treat the Paschal Candle as the rich symbol it truly is.

I plan on discussing another rich and ancient symbol in the next issue: the Footwashing.

#### PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON

Influenza is a viral respiratory illness spread through the air or by touching a surface with the virus on it and then touching one’s own nose or mouth. As general precautions, the USCCB suggests the following (from the December 2005 BCL *Newsletter*):

- If you are sick, stay at home. At the very least, refrain from the Cup. (Remember: self-intinction is not an option. See the November 2005 *LiturgyNotes*).
- Those who distribute Communion should practice good hygiene. At the very least, wash your hands before Mass. Some may also choose to use an alcohol-based hand cleanser before and after distributing Communion.
- Those with compromised immune systems may want to avoid the types of contact that may lead to spread of infection (shaking hands, receiving Communion on the tongue, receiving Communion from the Chalice).

In the event of a severe epidemic or pandemic (such as one threatened by the so-called “bird flu”), the USCCB will consult with the Centers for Disease Control regarding any other necessary steps to prevent the spread of an epidemic.

More information on influenza is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

#### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

##### BISHOP FRANKLIN’S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Bishop Franklin will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood with a special Mass on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. It would be particularly appropriate to mention him in the Prayers of the Faithful that weekend. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, attendance at the Mass is by ticket only.

##### RCIA: THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION

##### A Reminder: The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

You should have already received an electronic PDF form that is to be used to reserve seating at those liturgies. The Rites will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3PM and

6PM on Sunday, March 5 and again at St. Mary’s in Ottumwa at 3PM on March 12. 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 see the information letter at the end of this newsletter for details—and for what should be done if someone is unable to attend one of the scheduled celebrations with the bishop.

An important reminder: those who are awaiting a declaration of nullity should not celebrate the Rite of Election until the decree is granted. If it is not granted, they will not be able to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation this year.

### 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. We are working on an electronic “order” form for the Oils and will get it out to you as soon as it is completed.

### RCIA: THE TRIDUUM

#### Rites for Holy Saturday

The RCIA does contain specific Rites to be celebrated on Holy Saturday. A number of options are possible for the Elect, including the Recitation of the Creed, the Ephphetha Rite, and the Choosing of a Baptismal Name (RCIA #185-205). Candidates for Full Communion and Confirmation should celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (if not celebrated at some other point during Lent; see RCIA #408 and 482; *National Statutes* #27).

#### The Easter Vigil

The order of service varies slightly if the Vigil is celebrated with candidates, catechumens (elect), or both. It is preferable, however, that the reception and confirmation of candidates take place at a Mass different from the Vigil (see *National Statutes* #26). After the homily:

Elect only (RCIA #206-243)	Candidates only (RCIA #473-498)	Elect and Candidates (RCIA #566-594)
1. Baptism 2. Confirmation 3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with baptismal water 4. Prayer of the Faithful	1. Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with baptismal water (at the Vigil this replaces the Creed) 2. Celebration of Reception 3. Celebration of Confirmation 4. Prayer of the Faithful	1. Baptism of the Elect 2. Renewal of Baptismal Promises and sprinkling with baptismal water 3. Celebration of Reception 4. Confirmation of Elect and Candidates 5. Prayer of the Faithful

## *LITURGY PREPARATION*

### INTERCESSIONS

#### Intercessions for Life

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

#### Jan 8<sup>th</sup> THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

For all who dwell in the darkness of the culture of death: that the Holy Spirit might enlighten their hearts with the light of truth. We pray to the Lord.

#### Jan 15<sup>th</sup> SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who live on death rows throughout our country: that through our prayers they might receive the gift of repentance, and that all might come to know the value of their lives. We pray to the Lord.

#### Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who study for the medical profession: that they might see their vocation as a gift from God, and that they might grow in the Gospel of Life as they prepare to heal and restore. We pray to the Lord.

#### Jan 29<sup>th</sup> FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the sick and the suffering, and especially those near death, that the wisdom of those who suffer, and the value of their lives, might be treasured by all. We pray to the Lord.

### LITURGICAL CALENDAR

#### Day of Penance

The US Bishops have made January 23 a day of “penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life” (*Ordo* 2006; see GIRM no. 373). The Mass “For Peace and Justice” (#22) should be celebrated and violet vestments should be used. The use of Eucharistic Prayer IV “For Various Needs and Occasions” is suggested.

#### World Day for Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life will be observed on Sunday, February 5.

Resources for marking this day in your parishes can be ordered from the websites of the National Coalition for Church Vocations (<http://www.nccv-vocations.org/>). From the home page, click on the EDUCATIONAL heading and then type “World Day for Consecrated Life” in the SEARCH window.

You may also want to check out the website for the National Religious Vocation Conference ([http://www.nrv.com/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.nrv.com/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)).

### Time for the Start of 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 15, 2006, may not begin before 8:30 PM. (The same is true for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.) Of course, the later the darker—and the better (liturgically).

### Letter Regarding the Rite of Election

First, I want to remind everyone that the Rite of Election is *not optional*. In order to receive the Easter Sacraments, a catechumen must be elected by the Bishop—a sign of the catechumen's election by God (see RCIA #119, 121). While the Bishop may delegate presidency of the Rite to another priest, the Rite itself is not optional. Therefore, to the extent possible, catechumens are to attend one of the three scheduled Rites. Attendance at the Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion, while strongly encouraged, is not required.

If inclement weather prevents attendance of *an entire group from a parish* on the day they were scheduled to attend the Rite presided over by the Bishop (Davenport on March 5, Ottumwa on March 12), the Bishop will grant the faculty to preside over the Rite of Election in the parish to the pastor.

If, for a serious reason, *an individual* is unable to attend the Rite of Election presided over by the Bishop, then the pastor is asked to request permission from the Bishop in writing to celebrate the Rite of Election *for that individual* at the parish. Those who are able to attend the Rites in Davenport or Ottumwa are still to do so.

Second, we have decided to add a second celebration of the Rite of Election at the Cathedral. Last year, the Cathedral was quite crowded, so this year we would like to add a second celebration of the Rite. That way, we can also encourage parishes to bring not only the candidates and catechumens but other parishioners and family members as well. What a wonderful sign of our unity as a diocese!

In order to assist in planning, we are asking—to the extent possible—that parishes in the Iowa City and Keokuk Deaneries attend the 3pm Rite of Election in Davenport, that parishes in the Clinton and Davenport Deaneries attend the 6pm Rite of Election in Davenport, and that parishes in the Grinnell and Ottumwa Deaneries attend the Rite of Election in Ottumwa. We are only suggesting this approach as a way to help in planning and to “spread” attendance among the three celebrations; this is not a requirement. If the choice is between attending the Rite at another time or place, or not attending at all, we would rather you attend!

Third, the usual Parish Information Form is now available to be completed electronically. You should have already received a copy via e-mail; it is also available on the diocesan website. Using this electronic format will allow for more timely processing of your information and assist in our planning of these very important celebrations. In order to ensure that we get the correct information from you, please follow the instructions for the electronic completion of this form carefully. The form is also available as an Excel spreadsheet for those who cannot download the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the electronic format, please call Deacon Dave Montgomery at 563-324-1911 x250. Other questions, comments, or concerns, may be directed to Deacon Frank Agnoli at 563-333-6083 or 563-324-1911 x255.