

Dear servants of the liturgy,

Happy New Year! I hope that the holy-days passed well for you and your families, that you are all rested and re-energized, and ready to prepare yourselves and your communities for Lent, the Triduum, and the Rites of Initiation. As always, if there is anything that I—or the Diocesan Liturgical Commission—can do to help you in those preparations, please do not hesitate to ask.

Please remember that we will be hosting a *Beginnings Plus* workshop in July; there is information below and on the website; the December issue also included registration information. I encourage all involved in the RCIA—clergy, team members, catechists, sponsors—to attend this 4-day experience. It promises to be truly wonderful! Please register as soon as possible so we can plan and prepare appropriately.

This issue of the *LiturgyNotes* also includes information on the care and reception of the Holy Oils blessed and consecrated at the Chrism Mass, on the celebration of the Triduum, and on the RCIA. Enjoy!

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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:

#6 Reach out to Catholics who are no longer active in the Church. Many programs available can assist pastors, parish staff, and parishioners in their ministry to inactive Catholics. The US Bishops list the following: *Catholics Returning Home; Landings; ReMembering Parish; Come Home For Christmas; From Ashes to Fire: Evangelistic Ash Wednesdays; Road to Resurrection; Take Another Look; and We Miss You.*

THE CARE AND RECEPTION OF THE SACRED OILS

Only the Sacred Oils blessed at the Chrism Mass are to be used in the following 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). The Bishop will always bring chrism for confirmation, so having a sufficient supply of that oil should not be a problem.

What if there is a real emergency?

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 validly (but not licitly) be used in a true emergency.

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. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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.

LITURGY PREPARATION

MONDAY, JANUARY 22: DAY OF PENANCE (see GIRM #373)

The anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision is observed in all dioceses of the United States as a particular day of penance for 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. The Mass "For Peace and Justice" (#22), from "Masses for Various Needs and Occasions" should be used. The readings are taken from the Lectionary, volume IV, #887-891. The Eucharistic Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions IV is suggested. Violet vestments are to be worn. Resources for observing this day can be found on the USCCB website:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/prayervigil07.pdf>

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/DayofPen&Prayer12307.pdf>

JANUARY 19-25: THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Resources for celebrating this octave may be found at <http://www.geii.org/>.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Preparing for the Triduum

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

(1) The *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts* from the Congregation for Divine Worship (1988); available in electronic form from:
<http://www.ewtn.com/library/CURIA/CDWEASTF.HTM>.

(2) 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>.

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 7, 2007, may not begin before 8:30 PM. (The same is true for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.)

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.

Feb 4th 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For young people who seek to fill emptiness with the passing pleasures of this world: that God might fill their hearts with a love beyond all imagining, and imbue their minds with a hunger for the truth; We pray to the Lord:

For those who will be ordained this year; that God’s grace and blessings be generously poured out upon them...

For the courage to speak the truth on behalf of those silenced and marginalized...

Feb 11th 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For legislators who are tempted to trade their consciences for votes: that they may embrace the nobility of their calling and work for the protection of all their constituents; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians recognize, accept, and follow their particular call to holiness...

For the poor, the hungry, and those who mourn; and for those who serve and suffer with them...

Feb 18th 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the elderly and the infirm: that we might find in them the gift of wisdom and miracle of life; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians will see in their baptism their equal dignity as sons and daughters of God and their call to lives of holiness and service...

For the grace to love our enemies and forgive those who do us harm...

Feb 25th 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

For those whose selfishness leads them to sin against life: that the grace of God might turn their hearts from the ways of darkness and death and make them disciples of the Gospel of Life; We pray to the Lord:

That all Christians will preach the Good News of Jesus Christ through their way of life as parent, spouse, single person, religious, deacon, or priest; giving glory to God and witness to each other...

For those oppressed and maltreated around the world; for those still suffering in the bondage of slavery...

RCIA: THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATIONA Reminder: The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

The Rites will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3PM and 6PM on Sunday, February 25 and again at St. Mary's in Ottumwa at 3PM on March 4. 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 December newsletter for details—and for what should be done if someone is unable to attend one of the scheduled celebrations with the bishop.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday, March 27, 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.

Information on “ordering” oils will be sent to priests/parishes in the near future.

RCIA: THE TRIDUUMRites 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