

Dear companions at the Table,

In the words of St. Ephraem, the fourth century Syrian deacon and hymn-writer:

“Thy epiphany, O Lord, made the earth leap for joy.... The choir of shepherds on earth glorified thy all-saving advent. Today, the Word who sits on the throne of glory with the Father became flesh, born of the holy Virgin, giving the universe the grace of adoption.”¹

Deacon Frank Agnoli, MD, MDiv, MA
Director of Liturgy & Director of Deacon Formation
E-Mail: Agnoli@davenportdiocese.org
Phone: 563-324-1912 x255

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

The celebration of Confirmations in parishes is set to begin next month. We have a very full schedule, so – to all those responsible for preparing the liturgies – **please remember that you need to have the planning sheet to the Office of Liturgy no later than two weeks before the Confirmation liturgy.** And please remember to use the NEW planning sheet specific for Confirmations; not the one for “Solemn Liturgies” or the previous Confirmation sheet. The forms can be printed, filled in, and faxed (or mailed) to the office; or you can save the Word file to your hard drive, fill it in, save it again, and then send it in as an e-mail attachment. Your help in this matter is very much appreciated by Bishop Amos and his MCs!

The NEW planning sheets are available on our website, on the liturgy library page:
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm>.

The direct URL for the NEW Confirmation planning sheet in MS Word is:
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litPlanningSheetConfirmationRev071808.doc>

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 8)

Where should the liturgical musicians and instruments be located in a church? The US Bishops, in *Sing to the Lord*, offer the following principles:

- Music ministers ought to be placed in such a way that they are able to be a part of the liturgical action and relate to one another and to the rest of the assembly. They should not be a distraction (§§95-96).
- The cantor is usually placed in front of the assembly; however, once the congregation no longer needs the leadership of the cantor in order to sing, the cantor does not need to be visible. The psalm is sung from the ambo (§97).
- The choir should be placed in such a way as to show that it is a part of the assembly, yet serving in a particular way (§98).
- Instrument placement is guided by both visual and acoustic considerations; distractions are to be minimized and support of the choir and assembly maximized (§99).

¹ Mary Ann Simcoe, *A Christmas Sourcebook*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications (1985): 60.

- The space occupied by the music ministers should reflect the sacredness of that ministry; “any clutter or disorganization must be avoided” (§100).

Next time: Acoustics.

Our discussion of *Sing to the Lord* (available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>) will continue next month.

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

Where are we in the translation process? A timetable of the process is available on the USCCB website at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/TimetableNov2008.pdf>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

St. Paul Vespers

We are invited to gather at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Davenport, on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. to celebrate Vespers (Evening Prayer) in honor of St. Paul. Since the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul also closes the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we will be joined in prayer by the pastors and people of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Davenport. Their senior pastor, Rev. Peter Marty, will preach that evening along with Bishop Amos, who will preside.

In honor of St. Paul’s work as a tentmaker, and remembering how much he cared for the poor in Jerusalem, we will also be receiving a collection to assist the Humility of Mary Shelter provide housing for the homeless.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

The Rite will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3PM and 6PM on Sunday, March 1 and again at St. Mary’s in Ottumwa at 3PM on March 8. 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.

Detailed information—and a registration form—will be sent by separate e-mail to parishes, clergy, Parish Life Administrators, and RCIA Coordinators. The documents will also be posted on the diocesan website (look under Liturgy Events). Please note: registration information is due back to us by January 26!

The Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, on Monday, March 30, at 5:00 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.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

The 2009 National Convention—“Sing to the Lord”—will be held in Chicago from July 6-10. Please see their website (<http://www.npm.org/>) for details.

North American Forum on the Catechumenate

The Forum will be returning to Davenport on July 24-25, 2009, for a workshop on Mystagogy. Please reserve those dates. The flyer and registration brochure are now available on the diocesan website under Liturgy Events.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

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

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>.

Please note 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.

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 11, 2009, may not begin before 8:30 PM. (The same is true for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.)

World Day for Consecrated Life: February 8

In 1997, Pope John Paul instituted World Day for Consecrated Life. A complete resource kit for this annual event—including liturgy planning guide, music suggestions, homily guide, general intercessions, prayer service, prayer card master, bulletin announcements, clip art, poster, suggested activities and resources—is available from the National Coalition for Church Vocations at http://www.nccv-vocations.org/World-Day-for-Consecrated-Life-Kit--English-Spanish_p_63-34.html.

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:

For the parents of our parish, that they might instill a positive support for the priesthood, religious life, and other forms of church ministry as they support their children in their vocational discernment. We pray to the Lord.

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

- Feb 1 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For a deep respect for the natural resources of the earth which God has entrusted to our care... We pray to the Lord.
- Feb 8 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For political leaders, that they will work for peace with justice for all people...
- Feb 15 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For our nation, that we will be a people who reverence the gift of human life in all of its forms...
- Feb 22 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
For all who serve in public office, that they will be diligent in their efforts to alleviate poverty, injustice, and violence...

POPULAR DEVOTIONSHOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUMPalm Sunday

The *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* reminds us of the following (#139):

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, or “Passion Sunday”, which unites the royal splendour of Christ with the proclamation of his Passion (142). The procession, commemorating Christ's messianic entry into Jerusalem, is joyous and popular in character. The faithful usually keep palm or olive branches, or other greenery which have been blessed on Palm Sunday in their homes or in their work places... as a witness to faith in Jesus Christ, the messianic king, and in his Paschal Victory.

Instructions for folding the palm frond into a cross can be found at:

<http://www.kingofpeace.org/palmcrosses/>

More information on blessed palms in the home can be found on the Catholic Culture website:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1035>

Holy Thursday

The most important exercise of popular piety on Holy Thursday is visiting the altar of repose after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The time between the end of Mass and midnight is intended as "an invitation to silent and prolonged adoration of the wondrous sacrament instituted by Jesus on this day" (*Directory*, #141).

Good Friday

Processions and Passion Plays have long been traditional practices on Good Friday; the *Directory* (#142-144) includes important instructions regarding these practices. What is to be remembered is that the liturgical celebration of this day is primary and that these other practices do not substitute for it.

The *Directory* also mentions particular devotion to Our Lady of Dolours on this day (#145), including:

- the *Planctus Mariae*, an intense expression of sorrow, often accompanied by literary or musical pieces of a very high quality, in which Our Lady cries not only for the death of her Son, the Innocent, Holy, and Good One, but also for the errors of his people and the sins of mankind;
- the *Ora della Desolata*, in which the faithful devoutly keep vigil with the Mother of Our Lord, in her abandonment and profound sorrow following the death of her only Son; they contemplate Our Lady as she receives the dead body of Christ (the Pietà) realizing that the sorrow of the world for the Lord's death finds expression in Mary; in her they behold the personification of all mothers throughout the ages who have mourned the loss of a son. This pious exercise, which in some parts of Latin America is called *El Pésame*, should not be limited merely to the expression of emotion before a sorrowing mother. Rather, with faith in the resurrection, it should assist in understanding the greatness of Christ's redemptive love and his Mother's participation in it.

Holy Saturday

The *Ora della Madre* or *Ora di Maria* is a pious exercise proper to Holy Saturday (#146-147): we wait in prayer with Mary for the resurrection of her Son.

Easter Sunday

Marian devotions are no stranger to Easter either; the *Directory* mentions processions observing the meeting between the Risen Christ and his Mother (#149) and making visits to the Mother of the Risen Christ (#151). In this latter practice, flowers are blessed after the Easter Vigil is concluded. While some are placed in front of an image of Mary, the rest are given to the faithful as a sign of Easter joy.

At home, it is traditional to bless eggs, a symbol of life, and to bless the family table (#150). Water blessed at the Mass of Easter Vigil can be used in this special meal blessing. Here is one possible rite to use (from the *Book of Blessings*):

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=736&repos=3&subrepos=3&searchid=372972>.

Next time: The Easter Season

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: 563-324-1912 x267

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org