

LITURGYNOTES – FOR JUNE 2013

UPCOMING DIACONAL ORDINATION

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Diocesan Roman Missal Websites:

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
lit/litromanmissal.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm)

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
lit/litromanmissalQA.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissalQA.htm)

The Year of Faith:

[http://www.davenportdiocese.org/
yearoffaith.htm](http://www.davenportdiocese.org/yearoffaith.htm)

On July 13, Bishop Amos will ordain 14 men to the Diaconate—12 will exercise this ministry permanently while 2 others will continue in their seminary studies and be ordained as Presbyters next year.

A Q&A on the Diaconate is available at:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/dcn/deaconlibrary/dcnDiaconateDescriptionHandoutVII.pdf>.

The responsibilities of the Deacon at Mass are laid out in the GIRM; see especially # 94, 116, and 171-186. The Deacon:

- Carries the Book of the Gospels in procession (if the Book is not processed, he walks at the Priest's right)
- If needed, assists with the Penitential Act (Form C) and the Kyrie
- Proclaims the Gospel
- Preaches on occasion
- Announces the intercessions
- Prepares the altar / vessels
- Assists in receiving the gifts
- Prepares the chalice by adding the wine and water
- Incenses the Priest and people
- Assists the Priest at the altar, including with the fraction if needed
- Distributes Communion (especially ministering the Chalice; in this Diocese, it is policy that the Deacon distribute the Precious Blood)
- Reposes any fragments of the Blessed Sacrament (if not done by the Priest)
- Clears the altar and purifies the vessels (see article below)
- Dismisses the people and gives other directions during the liturgy

It is important to remember that only in the absence of a Deacon do other ministers carry out these duties. For

example, the Priest only proclaims the Gospel or the reader announces the intercessions or the servers place the vessels on the altar *only* if there is no Deacon at Mass. In other words, if a Deacon is present, he is not "taking away" anything from other ministers; other ministers do what is the Deacon's to do in his absence. A detailed policy on the Deacon at Mass is available at:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Policies/litDeaconEucharist-Revised112711.pdf>.

VERBUM DOMINI – THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Part II: Verbum in Ecclesia

In this next section (#56), Pope Benedict reflects on the sacramentality of the word. As Catholics, we are used to talking about 7 Sacraments. But here, the Holy Father is using the word in a deeper and richer way. Revelation is sacramental in character: the Word took on flesh in the Incarnation, entering time and space. Pope Benedict writes:

The sacramentality of the word can thus be understood by analogy with the real presence of Christ under the appearances of the consecrated bread and wine. By approaching the altar and partaking in the eucharistic banquet, we truly share in the body and blood of Christ. The proclamation of God's word at the celebration entails an acknowledgment that Christ himself is present, that he speaks to us and that he wishes to be heard.

In the proclamation of the God's word, *Christ is present and speaks to us*. How seriously do we take this claim?

As Catholics, the way that we encounter this word is through the lectionary. Which means that, as Catholics, our way of interpreting the scriptures is rooted in the liturgy and in the arrangement of the readings (#57), taking the Bible as a whole. The revised lectionary that followed Vatican II has been one of the greatest fruits of that Council—both for Catholics, who hear much more of the scriptures proclaimed at Mass, and ecumenically.

The Holy Father next writes about the ministry of reader (#58), calling for greater care in the exercise of this ministry. He stresses that readers must be “suitable and carefully trained”—and that training is not only technical, but especially biblical and liturgical. So, readers must be able to competently and clearly proclaim the scriptures. That level of competence means that they must also understand the text they are proclaiming and the context in which the proclamation is taking place.

PREACHING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: THE SUNDAY HOMILY

Part I: The Biblical Foundations for the Church's Preaching Ministry

Jesus both announced the coming Reign of God, and is himself the embodiment of that Kingdom. His healings and exorcisms, his ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation, as well as his preaching, all gave witness to the reality of this Reign, to the Good News. Preachers today follow in Jesus' footsteps. It is our task to preach Jesus and the Kingdom he proclaimed, a Kingdom that requires a change of heart... *metanoia*... conversion: “repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mk 1:15). The homily is an invitation to embrace God's Reign, and so to change... to repent. But—and here the Bishops are clear—that “does not mean that homilies should simply berate the people for their failures.” Concentrating on sinfulness, without the corresponding Good News of God's grace, inevitably produces only resentment and discouragement, and fails. “For this reason many teachers of homiletics warn, quite legitimately, against ‘moralizing’ homilies, which harp excessively or exclusively on sin and its dangers.” At the same time, it is our duty as preachers to “not remain silent before evil” and to faithfully preach the truth of the gospel, in season and out, in love.

RESOURCE

OTHER PORTRAITS OF THE HOLY FATHER

The USCCB is offering portraits of the Holy Father; information is available at:
<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/pope-francis-prayer-card-and-photo.cfm>.

Gellman Images is also providing an image of the Holy Father for display. Information may be found at:
<http://www.popefrancisusa.com/>.

FROM THE USCCB

THE PURIFICATION OF SACRED VESSELS BY THE DEACON AT MASS

The following was published in the April edition of the *NewsLetter* from the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship. The instructions echo the approach taken in our diocesan policy: §IV-220 *Policies Relating to the Liturgical Ministry of the Deacon*.

In the Roman Missal, Third Edition, the role of the deacon has been considerably elaborated. The need for clarifications, however, are still present, and so the Secretariat of Divine Worship would like to offer the following elucidation, admittedly minor, regarding the purification of vessels by deacons. One of the ways that the Church seeks to avoid confusion between the office of deacon and priest regards the manner of service at or near the altar. Service at the altar has many forms. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) states that the deacon "ministers at the altar, both as regards the chalice and the book" (no. 171b). GIRM no. 173 states that he may lay the Book of the Gospels on the altar and no. 178 states that he "prepares the altar" for the Liturgy of the Eucharist; he may also remove the corporal and sacred vessels from the altar after Communion. Purification of sacred vessels, however, is not something that the deacon does at the altar, but at the credence table, perhaps to avoid the appearance of the deacon doing a ministry alone at the altar that is other than preparatory or in assistance to the priest.

Paragraph 163 of the GIRM, which describes Mass without a deacon, describes the purification by the priest as being done either at the altar or at the credence table: "Upon returning to the altar, the Priest collects the fragments, should any remain, and he stands at the altar or at the credence table and purifies..." This contrasts, however, with the instruction found in paragraph 183, which describes Mass with a deacon:

When the distribution of Communion is over, the Deacon returns to the altar with the Priest, collects the fragments, should any remain, and then carries the chalice and other sacred vessels to the credence table, where he purifies them and arranges them as usual, while the Priest returns to the chair. Nevertheless, it is also permitted to leave vessels needing to be purified on a corporal, suitably covered, on the credence table, and to purify them immediately after Mass, following the Dismissal of the people.

Here, the deacon is at the altar with the priest to collect the fragments, but when the priest returns to the chair, the deacon carries the sacred vessels to the credence table to purify. Although the 2004 Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* might seem to confuse these straightforward rubrics of the GIRM when it states, "Where a Deacon is present, he returns with the Priest to the altar and purifies the

vessels” (no. 119), this actually coincides with GIRM no. 183, which similarly says that the priest and deacon return to the altar, and that the deacon purifies the vessels at the credence table. GIRM no. 183 makes clear what is left unstated by *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, that purification by the deacon takes place not at the altar, but at the credence table. This clarification of the deacon’s role helps to bring forth a further expression of our theology of liturgy and holy orders, matters which are indeed central to our life in the Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

Upcoming Ordinations

To the Diaconate: July 13, 2013.

Please note: Due to the number of people expected, attendance at this liturgy will be by ticket only.

Possible intercessions for inclusion in the Prayer of the Faithful between now and then might be:

For those men being ordained to the diaconate for our diocese, and for their families. We pray to the Lord.

That those who are to be ordained deacons would be faithful heralds of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord.

For those to be ordained deacons; that they would be filled with the sevenfold grace of the Holy Spirit and so abound in every Gospel virtue. We pray to the Lord.

Year of Faith Happenings

Please see the Year of Faith calendar for special commemorations around the diocese:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/comm/commlib/DODYearofFaithschedule.pdf>

or

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/yearoffaith.htm> (the series of articles on the sacraments of healing from the *Catholic Messenger* are also available here).

CONTINUING EDUCATION: DIOCESAN WEBINARS

The next webinar on a liturgical topic will be in September – Confirmation.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus & World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

Observed on June 7, the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests calls Catholics around the world to prayer on behalf of priests – that they would be holy men, conformed to Christ. To that end, we invite parishes to include intercessions for priests on the Sundays before and after this feast, as well as on the Solemnity itself. For example (based on Pope Benedict's Prayer for Priests):

That all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood would be ever more conformed to Christ, the Good Shepherd. We pray to the Lord....

For our priests; may they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let us pray to the Lord.

That priests would be shepherds according to Christ's own Heart, single-minded in service to Christ and to the Church, and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life. We pray...

For additional information and resources, please visit: <http://worldpriestday.publishpath.com/>.

Feast of the Transfiguration

The Feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on August 6 – which is also the anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, when nature itself was violently transfigured. Perhaps as we gather for Eucharist or pray the Hours this day we would do well to pray for peace and that the horrors of that August 6 sixty-seven years ago will never be repeated.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Solemnity of the Assumption, celebrated on August 15, falls on a Thursday this year. The Vigil Mass (with its proper readings) is celebrated on Wednesday evening. One of the popular traditions associated with the Assumption is the Blessing of Fruits and Herbs (*Directory on Popular Piety*, #181). In the United States, the rite for use within or outside of Mass may be found in the *Book of Blessings*, ch. 59: "Order for the Blessing of Food or Drink or Other Elements Connected with Devotion." A rite for use at home can also be found in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (1st ed. p. 170; 2nd edition p. 312).

Rite of Election 2014

The Rite of Election will be celebrated twice in the Diocese of Davenport next year – at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport on the First Sunday of Lent (March 9) at 3:00 p.m. and at St. Mary in Ottumwa on the Second Sunday of Lent (March 16) also at 3:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass 2014

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

Easter Vigil 2014

Next year, the Easter Vigil falls on April 19, and the earliest it may begin is 8:30 p.m.

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) linked to the Lectionary cycle may be found at the For Your Vocation website:

<http://www.foryourvocation.org/vocation-directors/liturgical-resources.cfm>

(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/>

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