

Dear servants of the liturgy,

I hope that you all observed the Triduum with truly inspiring celebrations! While it is easy (and tempting) now to fall into the lull of routine, may I encourage you, however, to instead celebrate this week of weeks, this one long Easter Sunday, with as much intention as you did Lent and the Three Days. Having fasted for 40 days, let us truly feast for 50!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

USCCB BISHOP'S COMMITTEE ON THE LITURGY

Music

The BCL's subcommittee on music has posted a PowerPoint presentation on their website at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy>. Then click on the link: PPT Update on Music Subcommittee. The presentation explains the work of the subcommittee (revising *Music in Catholic Worship* and preparing a *Directory for Sacred Music*) and their progress towards producing a repertoire of music for the Catholic liturgy in the United States. Please see their presentation for details. Given the work that this subcommittee has undertaken, and given that we are awaiting a new *Missal*, I would suggest that this is NOT a good time to pursue purchasing permanent hymnals.

New Texts

Likewise, this is not a good time to buy a new Missal (previously known as a Sacramentary) either. The U.S. Bishops and ICEL are in the process of providing a new translation of the prayer texts for the Mass (the third edition of the Missal/Sacramentary since Vatican II). The process occurs in three major steps. First, a "Green Book" translation is sent to bishops for consultation. After revisions are made, a "Gray Book" translation is sent for vote (the color refers to the cover). Finally, texts approved by the U.S. Bishops must be confirmed by Rome.

The new texts are being sent in sections, as follows:

Order of Mass Part I: "Green Book" consultation completed; "Gray Book" for vote in June
Proper of Seasons: "Green Book" consultation in process
Order of Mass Part II, Commons, Ritual Masses, Various Needs, Votive Masses, Masses for the Dead, Proper of Saints, Appendix, Introductory Materials: no texts yet

The hope is to have the last “Gray Book” presented by ICEL in October 2007. It is impossible to say, however, how long Rome will take to make their decision once the texts are submitted for confirmation. On the one hand, the Pope is known to be pushing for this project to be finished quickly. On the other hand, the translation of the second edition of the Rite of Marriage has been sitting in Rome waiting for final approval since 1990....

I hope this helps those who see the need to purchase a new Missal (Sacramentary) for their parishes. On the one hand, the liturgical books ought to be in good shape—worthy for use in the liturgy. On the other hand, it may not be the best use of resources to purchase a book that (perhaps) you will only use for a few years. It may be worth considering fabric covers—perhaps in the colors of the liturgical seasons—for books that are getting too worn, or borrowing a Missal from another parish (please see “A Request,” below).

In addition, the bishops have approved a new *Lectionary for Masses with Children*, so no need to buy a set of those until the new edition is approved and printed. And—last but not least—we are awaiting the publication of the new *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*. Latest word: June.

A REQUEST...

Does anyone have an extra copy of the Missal (Sacramentary)—1985 edition—that is in good shape and that you are willing to “lend” to another parish during this time of waiting? If so, please give me a call or send me an e-mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Workshops for Readers/Lectors

Mr. Ken Miller, of St. John Vianney Parish, has kindly volunteered to offer lector training programs in the diocese. If you are interested in having Mr. Miller at your parish or deanery, please contact him at: KJMCAM99@aol.com or at 563-332-8404. He may also be contacted through St. John Vianney parish.

Form/Reform: Touching Mystery through Vision, Creation and Mission

This annual conference on environment and art for Catholic worship will be held July 30 – August 2 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, Kansas City, MO. Conference materials are available at www.FormReformConference.com.

Liturgical Music Conferences

St. John’s University (Collegeville, MN) is offering a conference entitled “Music, Theology, Liturgy and the Rites: Baptism, RCIA, Confirmation, Wedding, Funeral” on June 26-30, 2006. For more information, please contact Deb Guertin at 320-363-3371 or dguertin@csbsju.edu.

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians is hosting their annual regional conventions on June 27-30 (Stamford, CT), July 18-21 (Grand Rapids, MI), and August 1-4 (Sacramento, CA). They are also offering their specialized Institutes over the summer; the closest is “Music with Children” in Darien, IL on August 8-10. More information is available on their website: www.npm.org.

RCIA

In the weeks leading up to the Triduum, I fielded a number of questions concerning the differences between catechumens and candidates. While I will cover some of the basics in future installments, please allow me to recommend your attendance at “Focus on Initiation: Concerning the Baptized” to be held in the Diocese of Des Moines by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. For information or to register, e-mail info@naforum.org or call 202-884-9758.

Looking Ahead

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions: Annual Meeting
October 10 – 13 in Omaha, NE.
Focus: liturgical music

LITURGY PREPARATION

INTERCESSIONS

Ordination of Rev. Mr. Bruce DeRammelaere to the Priesthood (Saturday, June 10th)

Please remember to include Deacon Bruce in your Prayer of the Faithful. For example:

- For Bruce DeRammelaere, and for all who will be ordained this year, that their lives would give joyful witness to the love of Jesus Christ. We pray to the Lord:
- For all who are to be ordained as priests this year, and especially for Bruce DeRammelaere, that they would faithfully minister the sacraments and preach the Good News in word and deed. We pray to the Lord.

Intercessions for Life

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

June 4th PENTECOST SUNDAY

That by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit all men and women might come to believe in the infinite value of the gift of human life; we pray to the Lord:

June 11th THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

That all families might participate fully in the life of the most Blessed Trinity, by a sacrificial and complete gift of themselves; we pray to the Lord:

June 18th THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

That through our reception of Holy Communion, we might accept and rejoice in the gift of creation, and give ourselves freely for the defense of all life from conception to natural death; we pray to the Lord:

June 25th 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all who are tempted to have an abortion: that God might implant in their hearts a deep love for the child whom they carry in their womb; we pray to the Lord:

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

The Month of May

May is traditionally regarded as a Marian month. Please recall, however, that the Easter Season should remain the primary focus in both prayer and in the liturgical environment. Popular devotions are to take their life from the liturgy, not overshadow it.

Sunday, May 14th is also Mother's Day. As a secular holiday, it should in no way overshadow the primary celebration of the paschal mystery. The Book of Blessings (#1724ff) contains an appropriate rite for parish use. The same applies to Father's Day, June 18 (See BB #1729ff).

May 22nd has been designated as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea. The USCCB Migration Committee is seeking from the Holy See approval for a Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea. The liturgical texts will be posted on the USCCB website once approved. Consider including mariners in your Prayer of the Faithful on Sunday, May 21.

Ordinary Time

As you begin looking ahead to ordinary time—and especially weekday celebrations—please remember that there are a wealth of Votive Masses and Masses for Various Needs and Occasions that are available. You may also want to consider a number of rites from the Book of Blessings as the summer approaches, for example:

For new drivers, especially as school lets out:

Order for the Blessing of the Various Means of Transportation

Especially for rural parishes:

Order for the Blessing of Boats and Fishing Gear

Order for the Blessing of Fields and Flocks

Order for the Blessing of Seeds at Planting Time

Since this is a common time for moves to take place:

Order for Welcoming of New Parishioners

Order for the Blessing of a Departing Parishioner

*MISCELLANY*SACRAMENTAL RECORDS

According to the Diocesan Policy “Procedures for Access to Sacramental Records,” dated 7 November 1995, sacramental records are “not ‘public’ in the sense that they are open to immediate examination and inspection by anyone for whatever reason.” Therefore, a request to copy all records and to make them available in, for example, a public library must be denied. Questions regarding this matter can be directed to Deacon David Montgomery, Associate Director of Communication and Archives, or to the Chancellor, Fr. Bob Gruss, at 563-324-1911.

BAPTISM IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

I have been asked to remind everyone that in 2001, the Vatican (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) definitively ruled that baptism in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS; Mormons) is not considered valid. That is, Mormons preparing to join the Catholic Church are to be treated as catechumens (not candidates) and baptized. This ruling, of course, also has implications for marriage preparation and annulments. Questions regarding this matter can be directed to Fr. Joe Wolf (the Judicial Vicar) or to me at 563-324-1911.