

LITURGYNOTES – FOR NOVEMBER 2013

INFORMATION FROM THE USCCB

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CONTACT:

Deacon Frank Agnoli, MD, DMin
Director of Liturgy &
Director of Deacon Formation
E-Mail: agnoli@davenportdiocese.org
Phone: 563-888-4257

The Year of Faith:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/yearoffaith.htm>

REMINDER: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to December 9 this year. While the obligation is lifted, Ritual Masses (like weddings) are still not permitted. However, funerals may be celebrated.

NEW PREACHING WEBSITE

The USCCB has launched a new page dedicated to homiletics on the USCCB website. The direct URL is: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/homiletics/index.cfm>.

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

Part III: *Verbum in Mundo*

Referring to the judgment scene in Matthew 25, Pope Benedict reminds us that the scriptures also call us to “engagement in the world” in service to the “least” of our brothers and sisters. Proclaiming the gospel includes a commitment to justice, reconciliation, and peace (99). The word of God “denounces injustices” just as it “promotes solidarity and equality.” As the synod Fathers recalled: “a commitment to justice and to changing our world is an essential element of evangelization” (100). Spread of God’s word cannot but lead to strengthening human rights, reconciliation between nations leading to a lasting peace, and practical works of charity for the sake of others (101-103).

The Holy Father then comments on how the word of God intersects with the needs of four groups of people in particular: the young (104), migrants (105), the suffering (106), and the poor (107). He reminds us that young people need to become more familiar with the scriptures, and that immersion in the word of God is a sure assistance as they discern the direction for their lives. He invites them to “open wide the doors to Christ” and so find true life. He mentions the challenge of migration today, and the crucial task of ministering to those who leave home in search of work or safety. But he does not see migrants as simply recipients of the Church’s ministry, but as Christians move to other parts of the world that have yet to hear the Good News—or have heard and forgotten it—these migrants will serve as powerful evangelists

in their own right. In a world that values life only if it meets “certain standards of efficiency and wellbeing,” the scriptures remind us that those who suffer indeed have worth and share a special closeness with Jesus. The scriptures do not answer the problem of suffering, but invite us into its mystery. Finally, the scriptures both call us to a “special live for the poor and needy” who are themselves agents of evangelization.

Finally, Pope Benedict reminds us that the scriptures call us not just to care for our fellow human beings, but all of creation. Condemning human arrogance and avarice that treats creation simply as “raw material to be exploited without scruple,” Pope Benedict calls us to “an authentic ecology” that includes responsibility toward all of what God has made (108).

PREACHING THE MYSTERY OF FAITH: THE SUNDAY HOMILY

Videos

The new USCCB webpage on homiletics includes a number of videos from last summer’s conference on *Preaching the Mystery of Faith*: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/homiletics/training.cfm>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS



*Don't forget...
Set your clocks back an hour
this weekend!*

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on November 3...

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

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

Liturgy Day: September 27, 2014

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Tim O’Malley of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. He will also lead a breakout session for youth and youth ministers. Other breakout topics include multigenerational preaching, liturgy and justice, and parish music ministry. We will continue to update you on the day here and on the liturgy events webpage: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

Here is a description of Dr. O'Malley's keynote address:

The Eucharist as Spiritual Practice

When we celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday, we are doing more than fulfilling an obligation. We're learning spiritual practices that might change the way that we understand our lives as unfolding in Jesus Christ. In this keynote address, we'll focus on the spiritual practices of confession, of memory, of sacrifice, and of mission. Through a deeper understanding of these practices, we'll learn to see the Eucharist as a gift that restores us to our original vocation as creatures made for love.

In future issues, I will provide descriptions of the breakout sessions.

RESOURCES

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM

The 50th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy: A Parish Celebration from LTP provides resources on both a DVD and CD-ROM. The DVD contains short videos about the liturgy that can be posted to the parish website or played at religious-education sessions or other parish gatherings. The CD-ROM contains a study guide on the Constitution for parish groups, complete with a leader's guide and discussion questions; handouts for liturgical ministers, children, and teens; and bulletin inserts on liturgical pioneers and aspects on the Vatican Council.

For more information, please see the LTP website: <http://www.ltp.org/p-2587-the-50th-anniversary-of-the-constitution-on-the-sacred-liturgy-a-parish-celebration.aspx>.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The Precatechumenate and Catechumenate

As the name implies, the *Rite* of Christian Initiation of Adults is marked by the liturgical celebration of the journey towards full initiation through the Easter Sacraments. Most RCIA teams are well aware that the transition from the Precatechumenate to the Catechumenate is celebrated through the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (RCIA §§ 41-74), and that the transition from Catechumen to one of the Elect is celebrated in the Rite of Election, preceded by the Rite of Sending (§§ 106-117). There are analogous celebrations for those baptized in other Christian communities who are journeying to full communion (§§ 411-458).

During the Catechumenate (see §§ 75-80 for introduction), a number of other rites are available for those not baptized that you may want to use. A number of these may be celebrated by the catechist rather than requiring an ordained minister; please see the texts in question for details.

- Celebrations of the Word of God (§§81-89)
- Minor Exorcisms (§§ 90-94)
- Blessing of Catechumens (§§ 95-97)
- Anointing of Catechumens (§§ 98-103).

In addition, the Presentation of the Creed and Lord's Prayer may be celebrated during this time if necessary (§§ 104-5).

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: January 18-25

During this week, the whole Christian community throughout the world is invited to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” (John 17:21). The theme for this year’s Week of Prayer is “Has Christ Been Divided?” (cf. 1 Cor 1:13). For more information and for resources, please go to <http://www.geii.org/>.

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children: Wednesday, January 22

January 22 has been designated by the U.S. Bishops 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.

In the third edition of the Roman Missal, two options are given from the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: (1) For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life (#48/1; white vestments) or (2) For the Preservation of Peace and Justice (#30; with violet vestments).

Resources for observing this day can be found on the USCCB website:
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>.

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) keyed to the lectionary cycle may be found at the Diocese of Arlington website:
http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx

(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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Phone: 563-888-4220

E-Mail: hoefling@davenportdiocese.org