

Dear liturgical ministers,

To begin with, thanks to all of you who completed the interest survey regarding the possibility of hosting a liturgy study day next fall. Unfortunately, we received fewer than 30 responses—not all of them indicating that they would attend—indicating to us that there is little interest in such a study day right now. In addition, it appears that we will be beginning our catechetical efforts regarding the new Missal at about that time. Therefore, the Liturgical Commission has decided that it would be better to put our time and energy into that crucial project rather than try to organize something for which there seems to be little support.

The survey did indicate that creating welcoming communities is an important topic that people want to see covered in some manner. Please know that we are exploring ways to address this topic as we look ahead to future offerings, such as the clergy gatherings and Diocesan Staff Support Days. In addition, the Liturgical Commission will work on a checklist to help parishes address questions of accessibility.

In the meantime, if there are parishes or deaneries that are interested in continuing formation for their liturgical ministers, we are happy to talk about possibilities. Members of the Commission have done workshops around the diocese for readers and for cantors, on liturgical art and environment, on praying the Mass, and on the spirituality of liturgical ministry. For those with the requisite stamina, I've offered a 5-part series (2 hours per session) on the history of the Mass in two parishes... and they've lived to tell about it!

Finally, we will certainly revisit the possibility of a diocesan liturgy study day again in the future, after we've completed our catechesis on the new Missal. We will also continue to post information regarding other formation opportunities in the area as they become available.

Again, thanks to all who took the time to share their thoughts with the Commission.

Blessed Advent,

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***FOR YOUR INFORMATION...***

- Check out this new resource at the USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/advent/>. There you'll find prayers, devotions, and other activities to help you keep the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- Bulletin inserts explaining the RCIA observances in Lent can be found on the diocesan website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litLentBulletinAnnouncements.pdf>. They are in PDF format but can be "cut and paste" into word and adjusted for your parish's needs.

***“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 18)***Concluding Rites

Church documents have very little to say about music in the concluding rites. *Sing to the Lord* reminds us that—especially on Sundays and more solemn occasions—the blessing and dismissal may be sung (#198). A recessional hymn is not required, and there are times—for example, if there has been a song after Communion—when a choral or instrumental piece (or even silence, especially in Lent) would be preferable (#199).

Next time: we turn our attention to music in other sacramental celebrations...

*Sing to the Lord* is available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>.

***THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL***

Six years of hard work have come to an end: the U.S. bishops have approved the English translation and U.S. adaptations of the five remaining sections of the Roman Missal by overwhelming majorities (≥88%). The only texts which have not been reviewed by the bishops are the antiphons, which they voted instead to remand to Rome for translation.

The next step is obtaining the *recognitio* from Rome for all the English texts and requested adaptations; this approval is expected sometime in 2010. After that, a “start date” for usage in this country will be set by the bishops.

If you haven’t had the chance, please check out the series of articles that we are running in *The Catholic Messenger*, our diocesan paper. The articles—and other resources—are available on our website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litromanmissal.htm>.

For more information, also visit [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).

***UPCOMING EVENTS***CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES"Concerning the Baptized" - July 9-10, 2010

The Archdiocese of Dubuque and the FDLC are sponsoring a two-day institute on the initiation journey for those already baptized but seeking to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. The program will take place in Cedar Rapids. Mark your calendars!

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

***THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS***RCIA: THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION

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. Lent is also known as the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, and is marked by the celebration of several important rites.

For Catechumens

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election is celebrated. In order to be admitted to the Easter Sacraments, individuals must be elected by the bishop (or his delegate). By this rite, catechumens become “the elect” and enter the “period of purification and enlightenment” that culminates in the sacraments of initiation (see RCIA # 118-28). The Rite of Sending of the Catechumens for Election should be celebrated in the parish prior to the Rite of Election.

Please remember that only catechumens (not candidates) sign the Book of the Elect.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies are celebrated. These required rites should take place within the ritual Mass “Christian Initiation: the Scrutinies” and use the Lectionary readings for Year A (see RCIA #146).

Requests to dispense an individual from a Scrutiny must be made in writing to the bishop, explaining the reason for the request. Only the bishop “may dispense from one of them for serious reasons or, in extraordinary circumstances, even from two” (RCIA #20).

The Presentations of the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks of Lent, respectively.

For Candidates

Candidates are those who have already been validly baptized but wish to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. For a previous baptism to be considered valid, it must involve the use of water and the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) – and express the same belief in the Trinity as defined by the Church. Communities that baptize only in the name of Jesus (e.g. some Pentecostal communities) and those who do not share our belief in the Trinity (e.g., Mormons) are not considered to have valid baptisms. If there is a question regarding the validity of an individual’s baptism please call this office.

Typically, on the First Sunday of Lent, Candidates take part in the diocese’s celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion—which is preceded by the Rite of Sending Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop, celebrated at the parish. Usually, these rites are combined with those for the catechumens (see RCIA # 530-561).

A special Penitential Rite (similar to the Scrutinies) may be celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent; it is not combined in any way with the rites for catechumens (see RCIA #459-63).

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in our Diocese

The Rite will be celebrated on Sunday, February 21, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport at 3 p.m. and again on Sunday, February 28, at St. Mary of the Visitation parish in Ottumwa at 3 p.m. 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 note:* those who are not eligible for the Easter Sacraments (e.g., those in an irregular union who have not yet received a declaration of nullity) should not celebrate the Rite of Sending or the Rite of Election (or Call to Continuing Conversion).

A more detailed letter of explanation and registration form will be sent with the January 2010. *LiturgyNotes*.

CONFIRMATION AND THE RCIA

(See the *Code of Canon Law* cc.882-888; also see *Priest Faculties for the Diocese of Davenport*)

As you prepare for the Easter Vigil, please note that permission must be requested for priests to confirm the following: 1. *Baptized Catholics who were instructed in or adhered to another faith by their own fault*, 2. *Baptized Catholics who were not raised as Catholic but who never belonged to any other church*, 3. *Baptized Catholics who have never left the Church but were never confirmed*.

A short letter asking for this permission should include a list of those people to be confirmed and a short explanation of the circumstances of each candidate.

Priests may confirm (without asking for permission) in the following circumstances: 1. *When he baptizes an adult (defined as anyone who has reached the age of discretion, about 7 years old)*, 2. *When he receives a previously baptized non-Catholic into full communion*, 3. *When he readmits into full communion a previously baptized Catholic who apostacized from the faith*, 4. *When he readmits into full communion a baptized Catholic who through no personal fault was instructed in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion*.

In order to respect the integrity of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the priest who presides over Eucharist and Confirmation is also the one who is to baptize. Therefore, another minister (e.g., a deacon or even another priest) must not baptize in this situation (see c.883.2; for an exception if large numbers are involved, see RCIA # 226).

Priests who will be presiding at the Easter Vigil outside the territory of their assignment, or if they are not assigned a pastoral charge, are reminded that they need the explicit (and not merely tacit) permission of the one in whose territory they are baptizing (pastor) in order to baptize (see canons 530 & 862) and confirm (see c.887).

All are reminded that according to the law of the Church, children who have reached the use of reason (around 7 years of age) are considered, for the purposes of Christian initiation, to be adults. Therefore, if someone who is to be baptized is deemed ready (i.e., old enough) to receive Eucharist they should be confirmed. However, according to the USCCB, candidates (those already baptized) who are between 7 and the usual age of Confirmation for the diocese usually make their First Communion and then become part of the parish’s regular preparation for Confirmation.

**LITURGY PREPARATION**LITURGICAL CALENDARPreparing for Lent

1. No Gloria is said or sung (GIRM #55); specific solemnities during Lent are the exception.
2. We abstain from “Alleluia” during Lent, during the Gospel Acclamation (#62) and in other music as well.
3. It is forbidden for the altar (sanctuary) to be decorated with flowers (*Laetare* Sunday [4<sup>th</sup>], solemnities and feasts are an exception) (#305). Flowers are never to be placed on top of (on the mensa of) the altar.
4. The playing of the organ and other musical instruments is allowed *only* to support the singing (*Laetare* Sunday [4<sup>th</sup>], solemnities and feasts are exceptions) (#313).
5. Violet or purple is the color of sacred vestments. Rose may be used where it is the custom on *Laetare* Sunday (#346).
6. In the dioceses of the United States, crosses in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday. Images in the church may be covered from the conclusion of the Mass for the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. (*This is simply an option; there is no need to implement this practice if not already part of parish life.*)
7. In regards to emptying fonts during Lent, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has declared “that the removing of Holy Water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted, in particular, for two reasons:
  - “1. The liturgical legislation in force does not foresee this innovation, which in addition to being *‘praeter legem’* is contrary to a balanced understanding of the season of Lent, which though truly being a season of penance, is also a season rich in the symbolism of water and baptism, constantly evoked in liturgical texts.
  - “2. The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The ‘fast’ and ‘abstinence’ which the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church.

“The practice of the Church has been to empty the Holy Water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated (i.e., Good Friday and Holy Saturday).”

INTERCESSIONS

(1) "Intercessions for Life" may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

In addition, in light of the debates surrounding health care reform, consider the following (from the USCCB) for inclusion:

That Congress will act to ensure that needed health care reform will truly protect the life, dignity and health care of all and that we will raise our voices to protect the unborn and the most vulnerable and to preserve our freedom of conscience. We pray to the Lord.

(2) Monthly intercession for vocations (courtesy of Fr. Marty Goetz, Director of Vocations):

For children, may they be nurtured in faith and love and encouraged to listen to God's call, we pray:

(3) Weekly intercessions:

- Jan 3            EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
That we treat all travelers and strangers in our midst with kindness and care; we pray to the Lord...
- Jan 10            BAPTISM OF THE LORD  
Through his baptism Jesus gave water sacred meaning. May we prevent any careless waste of this life-giving resource; we pray to the Lord...
- Jan 17            2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
That we use our gifts in service to those who most need our attention today; we pray to the Lord...
- Jan 24            3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
That those in jail, prison, or any form of detention be treated fairly and humanely; we pray to the Lord...
- Jan 31            4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
That we never fail to show love to all, especially those society considers unlovable; we pray to the Lord...

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.

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# FDLC Advent-Christmas Resources

*As the new liturgical year approaches, resources from FDLC to help encourage a more conscious participation in the mysteries of the season*



## Advent: In Joyful Hope Adviento: en gozosa esperanza Christmas: the Final Word Navidad: la última palabra

A simple guide to Advent and Christmas. Receive these bulletin inserts as pdf file (two inserts, each 2 sides, 8 ½ " wide by 11" long) or in hard copy. Unlimited parish use for a flat rate royalty payment of \$10 for either language or \$20 for both Spanish and English.



## The Liturgical Year El año litúrgico

The Advent and Christmas inserts above are part of an eleven part series covering the whole liturgical year. The cost for the whole series depends on the quantity reproduced for the parish bulletin: \$50 for up to 500 copies of the set, \$75 for up to 1000, and \$100 for any quantity over 1,000. Receive as a pdf file attached to email or on disk, or in hard copy.



## Spotlight on Liturgy: Seasons and Festivals CD Resource

Simple one page catechesis for all the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year (including the major civic holidays). Adobe Acrobat Reader (pdf) files, in B&W to reproduce, and in color to display. Also included for each day is simple "lesson plan". English only.

Advent-Christmas sections of the CD:

1. The Season of Advent
2. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8)
3. Nativity of the Lord
4. Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1)
5. The Epiphany of the Lord

[Click for more information, samples, ordering](#)

Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

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