

Dear companions at the Table,

The Year of St. Paul is now underway, affording us the opportunity to focus on the witness and message of this apostle. I invite everyone to take a look at the Liturgy Events page on the diocesan website for resources to help you celebrate this important event in the life of the Church: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

SCAP Workshops are now completed; please remember that the nomination forms need to be submitted by pastors before individuals can be delegated by the Bishop.

Given our experiences in parishes last year, the *Policies on the Bishop in the Liturgy* and the planning sheets for Confirmation and Solemn Liturgies have been revised. Please remember to use these new sheets in the coming year; they are available in the Liturgy Library at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm>.

With hopes for all that is good,

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

**LTP ANNUAL RESOURCES**

LTP has announced that its annual resources are once again available. You may order your materials directly from LTP, 800-533-1900 or from Religious Supply Center in Davenport. Religious Supply is willing to provide the parishes with discounted prices. For details or to place your order, call Jim, 563-324-0669 or 800-292-0052, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday.

***THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL (PART 4)***

Third, there has been a growing concern for the theological content of the current translations. As I mentioned previously, to translate is to create meaning—and not always the meaning intended by the author. A good example of this is the way a number of our prayers use the word “help” to describe God’s action, as in “Help us to live in your presence” (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time).

While perhaps not intended, this gives the meaning that we can do it ourselves but it would be nice to have God’s assistance. Such meaning very easily leads to the heresy of Pelagianism, the idea that we can save ourselves.

A more literal, and accurate, rendering of the Latin gives us: “...grant that by your grace we may be people in whom you are pleased to dwell.” (2008 Proposed Translation).” No danger of Pelagianism there!

Given the principle of *lex orandi, lex credendi*—that our beliefs are expressed in our prayers—new translations will render the Latin more literally in order to better express the faith of the Church.

To be continued...

### **“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 3)**

This year, the US Bishops revised their document on liturgical music, *Music in Catholic Worship* under the new title *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. In giving us this document, the US Bishops hope to “provide direction to those preparing for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy” and “draw all who worship the Lord into the fullness of liturgical, musical prayer” (introduction and foreword). We continue our musical “examination of conscience” in this issue of *LiturgyNotes*; these questions are more particular to our priests and deacons:

- If my voice is not “suitable for the proper execution of the singing,” do I recite in a loud and distinct voice (§19)?
- Am I attentive to the cantor and psalmist as they lead the assembly (§21)?
- Because singing is a corporate act, do I turn off or step back from the microphone when my role is to sing with the assembly (§21)?
- Do I put resources into the musical training of liturgical ministers (§§16, 20, 23)?

The questions are reprinted from May 2008 *Clergy Update*, a service of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, © 2008 NPM, Used with permission. All rights reserved. Our discussion of *Sing to the Lord* (available at: <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>) will continue next month.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

##### Liturgy of the Hours Workshop

A tutorial on the LOH will be held at St. Thomas More, Iowa City (108 McLean Street), on Sunday, August 17, from 1:00pm to approximately 3:30pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Cheryl Campion at St. Thomas More (319-337-2173) by Monday, August 4. Questions? Please call Irene Chalmers-Neubauer at 319-351-0260. It would be helpful to have your own copy of Christian Prayer (1 volume Liturgy of the Hours) for the workshop.

##### David Haas Coming to OLV!

David Haas is coming to Our Lady of Victory Parish in Davenport! An accomplished composer and educator, David will offer both a performance/mission-style talk for all ages on Friday, September 12, at 7:30 PM (free will donation) and an all-day workshop for musicians and/or all those interested in good liturgy on Saturday, September 13 (\$10 fee). Both events are being held in the church. Plan to come for one or both opportunities. For more information, please contact Trish Gallagher, 563-391-8384. A flyer is included with the August *Mini-Messenger*.

FDLC National Meeting

The national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions will take place on October 14-18, 2008, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please see their website – [www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org) – for details.

*LITURGY PREPARATION*A COUPLE OF REMINDERS...

It is the practice in a number of our parishes to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer at Mass. While this is not a recommended practice (it can be distracting and can send the wrong message that this prayer, and not Eucharistic Communion, is the high point of unity in the Mass), it does enjoy popularity in certain places. However, parishes that choose to continue such a practice need to be attentive to how they treat those who cannot or choose not to hold hands. Too often they are subject to "dirty looks" and other gestures of disapproval, or have their hands grabbed against their will; quite ironic considering that many advocate for the practice under the argument that it is a sign of hospitality! So, I would ask that pastors remind their people to please be gracious to all praying with us at Mass.

The question of when one is to stand after the gifts and altar are prepared has again come up. According to norms for the United States, the priest first says, "Pray, brothers and sisters..." then the people stand, and then they respond, "May the Lord..."

Finally, gesture is an important part of our prayer as Catholics; our worship is embodied. As we head into the fall, this might be a good time to remind our parishioners to bow during the profession of faith at the words, "By the power of the Holy Spirit...became man." It is a simple yet profound way to recall the centrality of the Incarnation for our Christian faith.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

With school starting, consider using the Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers. It is found in the *Book of Blessings*, nos. 522 and following.

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 any and all who work to promote vocation awareness in our diocese and throughout the Church; we pray to the Lord...

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

- Sept 7            23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
For the strength to bind sin and the grace to forgive the sinner; we pray to the Lord...
- Sept 14            FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE MOST HOLY CROSS  
For those deprived of food, water, and health care by the greed of others; we pray...
- Sept 21            25<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
That workers, especially those who harvest our fields, would be treated with respect and receive a just wage; we pray...
- Sept 28            26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
That all who oppress the poor and weak would turn from their wicked ways, we pray...

### *POPULAR DEVOTIONS*

Ember Days: Historically, the Church set three days (Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday) apart for fasting, abstinence, and prayer during each of the four seasons of the year. For example, the autumn ember days were the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (see below). Today, while it is up to Bishops' Conferences to set specific ember days (an example in the US is January 22 – a day of penance for violations to the dignity of human persons due to abortion), families and individuals are encouraged to “observe seasonal penitential days that focus on sins that are all too prevalent in the contemporary world” (*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, revised, 164). For example, August 6 and 9, the anniversaries of the use of atomic weapons against the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki could be observed as our summer ember days: “By observing these two days with fasting and prayer, we express sorrow for this event and pray for an end to all violence and the coming of a Kingdom of justice and peace” (*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, revised, 168). We may wish to observe September 11 in like manner.

Because we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14 and the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows on the next day, September has often been dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. Here are some electronic resources that you might want to consult:

Exaltation of the Holy Cross:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2008-09-14>

Our Lady of Sorrows:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=762>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2008-09-15>

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