

Dear companions at the Table,

Autumn has begun its annual dance with death... there was a noticeable chill in the air this morning and the weather reports are starting to talk about frost.... As the world outside prepares for the sleep of winter, I am sure that you're also busy with your own preparations for the upcoming liturgical seasons and Holy Days. To that end, I hope that you find the articles and resources contained in this edition of the *LiturgyNotes* helpful. As you look ahead, please all remember that this month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and see the Liturgy Homepage for resources (<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/index.htm>).

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

DIRECTIVES ON THE USE OF THE NAME OF GOD

Pope Benedict XVI, through the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, has pronounced that the Hebrew sacred and proper name of God, “YHWH”, no longer be used in songs or prayers in liturgical services. Remaining faithful to the Church’s tradition, from the beginning, that the sacred tetragrammaton was never pronounced in the Christian context nor translated into any of the languages into which the Bible was translated, “Lord” or “God” is to be used. This will not affect the official liturgical texts, but will affect variable prayers, intercessions and music such as the song, ‘You Are Near’. Therefore, in texts that you compose for the liturgy (such as the homily and intercessions), and in musical choices that are made, please avoid use of the tetragrammaton. This directive provides an opportunity for pastors to offer catechesis for the faithful as an encouragement to show reverence for the name of God in daily life, emphasizing the power of language as an act of devotion and worship.

The letters from Cardinal Arinze and the USCCB are posted on our website (Liturgy Links page, section on the U.S. Church): <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlinks.htm>

THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL (PART 6)

So, how do the liturgical texts make it from the Latin original to the English that we will be using at Mass? There are a number of steps involved. First, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) prepares a first draft known as a “Green Book.” These are sent to the Bishops for comment. From these comments, a second draft—the “Gray Book”—is prepared. Comments are again solicited from the Bishops. These are sent to the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. The Gray Book, and the changes recommended by individual bishops, are then voted on by the USCCB. Once approved by two-thirds of the Latin Rite bishops, the text is sent to Rome for final approval.

There are thirteen separate parts of the new Missal at various stages in this process. The Order of Mass Part I has been approved by Rome. Three more “Gray Books” are awaiting consideration. The optimistic timeline calls for all voting by the USCCB to be done by 2010.... In the meantime, the US Bishops have set up a webpage to help keep us informed regarding the translation project. Please check out <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/index.shtml> for more details.

“SING TO THE LORD” (PART 5)

After their discussion of the various music ministries, the Bishops then turn their attention to some special circumstances: Catholic schools (§§54-56), diverse cultures and languages (§§57-60) and Latin in the liturgy (§§61-66).

Singing in schools is strongly encouraged. Grade and high schools should develop choirs for school Masses. While a variety of musical styles is recommended, the repertoire used should also include music that is sung by the wider Church on Sundays—so the connection between school and parish liturgies is maintained and children are prepared for life as adults in the Church. The Bishops also state that “Catholic colleges and universities show that they come ‘from the heart of the Church’ especially in their worthy celebration of the Church’s Liturgy, which *should be a priority* at every Catholic school” (§56).

The Bishops also speak of the challenges and blessings of multicultural/multilingual communities. The importance of welcoming and mutual reciprocity is stressed, while mere tokenism in the choice of liturgical music is to be avoided. Finally, they also remind us of the importance of Latin, the universal language of the Church, in liturgy and that the faithful should be able to sing the Mass parts in Latin.

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

Holy Trinity Liturgical Conference

Holy Trinity Parish in Fort Dodge, IA, is hosting a liturgy conference on November 2, 2008. For more information, please see the brochure and poster being e-mailed with this issue.

North American Forum on the Catechumenate

The Forum will be returning to Davenport on July 24-25, 2009, for a workshop on Mystagogy. Please reserve those dates.

LITURGY PREPARATION

MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Our Lady of Guadalupe

If there are any parishes planning special celebrations for December 12 to which you want to invite others in the diocese, please let me know—and we'll list them here in the November issue.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Liturgical Calendar 2008-2009

The diocesan liturgical calendar for 2008-2009 is being sent along with this newsletter as a separate document.

Christmas and the Christmas Season

1. God reveals God's self to us as the One who loves us. The feast days during Christmas remind us of this revelation and seek our response to it.
2. The color is white or gold, and it is ideal if vestments and fabrics used are different from those used at Easter.
3. A good Penitential Rite is Rite C, #iii.
4. Sing the Gloria the entire season. The carol "Angels We Have Heard On High" may not replace the Gloria.
5. Christ is present here and now. TODAY is born our Savior. Avoid historicizing. For example, use Christmas music with good theology for the whole season (ex. Hark the Herald Angels Sing) and avoid historical settings (O Little Town of Bethlehem).
6. Make sure your decorating reflects all that is important: the Word, the people...Enhance the whole building, not just the sanctuary. Remember: less is more!
7. Remember that Advent and Christmas are the perfect times to remember Mary, our ultimate model for behavior. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, observed on January 1, is also a Solemnity and Holy Day of obligation. Ritual and Funeral Masses may not be celebrated.
8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing/proclaim these texts, which may be found in the *Sourcebook for Sundays and Seasons* from Liturgy Training Publications or in the *Sacramentary Supplement 2004*:
 - a. At Christmas Midnight Mass, after the greeting and introduction, the "Proclamation of the Birth of Christ" is sung or proclaimed. The Gloria immediately follows.
 - b. On Epiphany, the "Proclamation of the Date of Easter" is sung or proclaimed after the homily or after the prayer after communion.

See the diocesan website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>

9. During most of the year, we make a profound bow during the Proclamation of Faith while speaking the words: “by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.” During the Vigil of Christmas and all the Masses of Christmas, we genuflect at this time—highlighting the awesome mystery of the Incarnation.

10. Regarding the various Christmas Masses:

- a. For prayers, the *Sacramentary* has five different Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Mass for December 24 is the proper text for Masses in the morning of December 24. The proper text for Masses in the evening (= after 4 p.m.) of December 24 is the Christmas – Vigil Mass. The text for Christmas – Mass at Midnight is to be used for Masses beginning “at night,” preferably on or around midnight between December 24 and 25. The proper text for the first Mass in the morning of December 25 is the Christmas – Mass at Dawn. Later Masses on December 25 should use the text for Christmas – Mass during the Day.
- b. The Mass at Midnight may be preceded by a more prolonged vigil, taken from the Office of Readings (see the *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours* #71-73, 98, 215). This extended vigil is the preferred time for the blessing of the crèche (*Book of Blessings*, chapter 48, §1542-44).
- c. According to the *Lectionary for Mass*, for the three Masses of Christmas (Midnight, Dawn, Day), the proper readings for the Mass may be used or the readings may be chosen from among any of the readings for Christmas or the Vigil—based on pastoral need. Pastors should carefully discern those needs before selecting readings other than those proper to each Mass. Only the Vigil readings may be used at the Vigil Mass.

11. The crèche does not go under the altar or even in the sanctuary. It is preferable to put out a crèche that represents the whole story; there is no need to have “traveling kings.” Please see the *Book of Blessings*, chapter 48, §1544:

“If the manger is set up in church, it must not be placed in the *presbyterium*. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible by the faithful. (The *presbyterium* is that part of the church where bishops, priests and ministers perform their ministry. This would be the altar, ambo [pulpit], and presidential chair area of the sanctuary. The placement of the crib should not interfere with the dignity and function of these areas. Likewise, the crib should not impede a minister from getting to the tabernacle.)”

Additional information can be found in the GIRM §299 and in *Built of Living Stones* §§124, 125, and 128.

12. There is a tradition of blessing chalk on the Epiphany, which is then used by the faithful to bless their homes. Please see below for details. In addition, this would be a proper time to celebrate the “Order for the Blessing of Homes during the Christmas and Easter Seasons” found in the *Book of Blessings* §§ 1597-1621.

It is also available on our website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Monday, March 30, at 5:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars!

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:

That men and women may find joy in sacrificing personal gain for the service of others in a church vocation; we pray to the Lord.

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Nov 2 COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

For the Christian faithful, that we may honor the memory of our beloved dead by working for justice and reconciliation in our communities and in the world...we pray to the Lord...

Nov 9 DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

For the heads of corporations and all employers, that zeal for the Lord’s house will consume them so that they may always abide by fair business practices and thus help to build a more just society...we pray to the Lord...

Nov 16 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all husbands and wives, that they reflect God’s love for the world, not only in their love for each other but also by extending their hands to the poor and the needy...we pray to the Lord...

Nov 23 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

For all entrusted with the governing of peoples, that they may be servant leaders in the model Christ the King as they seek to minister to the “least ones” of society...we pray to the Lord...

Nov 30 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For the members of the Church, that we may be ever watchful for the coming of Christ in the distressing disguise of the poor, the immigrant, and the outcast and that we may serve their needs in the spirit of this Advent Season...we pray to the Lord...

POPULAR DEVOTIONS

SAINT NICHOLAS (DEC. 6) AND SAINT LUCY (DEC. 13)

The feast day of Saint Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, is especially popular in eastern European and Germanic countries, as well as in Italy. In many places, children put shoes out on the evening of December 5 and awake on the Saint's feast day to find them filled with nuts, fruits, and sweets.

In our home, so as not to make presents the focus on Christmas, we like to spread the gift-giving out. Since my wife has eastern European roots, we put out shoes for St. Nicholas day... In Puerto Rico, the Epiphany is the major gift-giving day, not Christmas... but instead of leaving cookies and milk for Santa, we leave straw for the Magi's camels... Therefore, since I am Puerto Rican, we also put out straw on Epiphany Eve...and in the morning, the straw is gone and in its place there is one last gift...

In Scandinavian countries, it is the feast day of Saint Lucy, martyr, which is celebrated with particular attention. According to tradition, Lucy would carry food to Christians hiding in the catacombs of Rome during the persecution by Emperor Diocletian. So, in order to be able to both carry the food and see her way, she would wear candles on her head. Therefore, the custom developed for one of the daughters in a family to get up early, dress in a white robe with scarlet sash and put a crown of green leaves with five candles in her hair. She would then bring coffee and special saffron buns to the rest of the family. If you want a recipe for these "Santa Lucia buns," see <http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/recipes/view.cfm?id=1283>.

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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