

MEMO

TO: Deacons of the Diocese

FROM: Deacon Frank Agnoli, Director of Liturgy

DATE: May 5, 2008

RE: Formation to lead Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest

As you know, in 1988 the Holy See published the *Directory for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*. This document was followed by the U.S. Bishops' *Gathered in Steadfast Faith* (1991) and the first edition of the ritual book, *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* (1994). Our diocese commissioned its first diaconal and lay leaders of this rite in 2002. The commissioning, initially for a period of three years, has been extended to allow for the promulgation of the new rite (2006) and new diocesan policies (2007). We are now ready to (re)certify those who will lead this rite.

In order to be prepared to lead these rites, you must either (1) have taken the required courses offered through the Ministry Formation Program's Liturgy Track this year or (2) complete the formation offered by the diocese this summer.

Workshops this summer will be held as follows:

Group	Day	Time	Place
Deacons	Sat, June 21	9am-noon	St. Mary, Oxford
Davenport Deanery	Sat, July 12	9am-noon	CTK Chapel, St. Ambrose
Keokuk Deanery	Sat, July 19	9am-noon	Sacred Heart, Ft. Madison
Clinton Deanery	Sun, July 20	1pm-4pm	St. Joseph, DeWitt
Grinnell/Ottumwa Deaneries	Sat, July 26	9am-noon	St. Mary, Oskaloosa
Iowa City Deanery	Sat, July 26	12noon-3pm	St. Mary, Iowa City

If you are unable to make it to the gathering on June 21, just let me know which alternate workshop you will be attending.

A DVD and a set of handouts have been sent to your Pastor or PLA. The handouts will also be posted on the diocesan website, under Liturgy Events. In preparation for these workshops, please watch the DVD and read the diocesan policy and related handouts.

We will have copies of the rite for your use at the workshops.

After the workshops are completed, your pastor or PLA will send a nomination form to the bishop; once the bishop approves you for this ministry you will be granted faculties for a period of three years.

Please call the Office of Liturgy (563-324-1912 x255) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your willingness to be of service to your parish and the diocese in this regard.