

Dear companions at the Table,

There is so much going on! We've begun the liturgical track in the Ministry Formation Program and are busy offering workshops around the diocese. This issue is a little longer than usual because we have a lot to share with you. New resources... multicultural celebrations... opportunities for continuing formation... notes on upcoming liturgical seasons... I hope that you find our offerings helpful. If there are questions that you want addressed in these *Notes*, or if you have other suggestions, please do not hesitate to send me an e-mail.

Finally, may I please invite you to keep the men discerning a call to diaconal ministry—as well as their wives and children—in your prayers? We will be holding a series of meetings around the diocese to introduce the diaconate and explain the formation program to those who are discerning such a call. This month we meet at St. Mary, Solon, from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. on October 28; next month we meet at St. Joseph, DeWitt, on November 18.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Quinceañera.

On July 10, 2007, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments confirmed the Spanish and English texts for celebrating the *Quinceañera*. This rite is now considered a part of the *Book of Blessings* and the *Bendicional*, and is available at www.usccb.org/Quinceanera.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OBSERVING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APPARITIONS AT FATIMA

All are invited to gather at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Saturday, October 13, beginning at noon to pray the Rosary in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal. Please join Bishop Amos and your sisters and brothers from around the diocese for this time of prayer and reflection.

MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

St. Martin de Porres

The St. Martin de Porres Society and the African-American Community at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Davenport, would like to extend an invitation for all to join them in celebrating the Memorial of St. Martin de Porres on Saturday, November 3. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., to be followed by refreshments in the rectory.

The Vietnamese Martyrs

The Vietnamese community will celebrate the feast of the Vietnamese Martyrs on Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 22) with Mass at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

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.

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Cantor Workshops

Patti McTaggart, music minister at St. Mary, Iowa City, and member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, is available to conduct workshops for cantors and music ministers around the diocese. Please give her a call at 319-337-4314 or e-mail her at pmctaggart@icstmary.org for more information or to schedule a date.

The following three opportunities are being offered through the Archdiocese of Dubuque:

Art and Environment

An Art and Environment Workshop will be held on October 6 from 9:30 to Noon at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque. Sr. Ruth Jackson will be the presenter. Registration fee is \$5. Please register by October 4 by calling the Dubuque Worship Office at 800-876-3546.

Bilingual Liturgy and Music

“Called As One,” a liturgy and music workshop, will be presented by Dolores Martinez of Oregon Catholic Press at St. Mary Church in Marshalltown. There are two opportunities to participate. On October 20, from 9:00 - 3:00, the presentation will be in English with Spanish translation and on October 21, from 1:00 - 6:00, the presentation will be in Spanish with English translation. There is a fee of \$5. To register please contact Gloria DeBower at St. Mary Church by October 15 at 641-758-6278 or stmary@marshallnet.com.

RCIA

Mark your calendars. Fr. Paul Turner, an expert in the RCIA, will be offering two opportunities for reflection on the rites of initiation at a parish in Cedar Rapids (the final location is still TBD).

The first meeting (Thursday, April 17, 2008, 6:30-9:00 p.m.) is entitled, “A spiritual renewal for RCIA teams.” All who minister in the RCIA are invited to this evening of theological/spiritual reflection on the nature of RCIA ministry, based on the general introduction to the rite.

On April 18, 2008, Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fr. Turner will present on “Celebrating the Rites: a mystagogical reflection.” This workshop is intended for priests, deacons, RCIA

teams, liturgists, and musicians. The morning session will focus on the Easter Vigil; the afternoon on the Rite of Acceptance and the Scrutinies.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

NPM and the Friars of the Atonement sponsored a competition that invited composers and writers to create a new hymn text and a new Communion song based on the prayer of Jesus, “That all may be one” (John 17:21). The winning entries – “Family of Faith” by Steven Ottományi and “That All May Be One in Christ” by Ricky Manalo, CSP– are now available for free download at the NPM website: <http://www.npm.org/Membership/hymncompwinners.htm>. Both compositions were sung by participants during the recent NPM National Convention in Indianapolis. The latter piece includes Vietnamese and Spanish lyrics, and would make a great addition to a multicultural repertoire.

LITURGY PREPARATION

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

A detailed liturgical calendar for Advent 2007 through Christ the King 2008 is also being sent along with this issue of LiturgyNotes.

Priesthood Sunday

Priesthood Sunday is being observed on October 28 this year. This nationwide event is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International as a way “to honor priesthood in the United States.... [and] to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one.” Materials can be found on the web at www.priestsunday.org.

All Saints / All Souls

The Solemnity of All Saints, Thursday, November 1, is a Holy Day of obligation. Neither Ritual Masses nor Funeral Masses are allowed.

On Friday, November 2, the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed is observed. Any of the readings from the Masses for the Dead (Lectionary Volume IV, #1011-1016) may be used. Ritual Masses are not permitted, but the funeral Mass may be celebrated.

November, and especially All Souls Day, is a traditional time to visit the graves of loved ones and to remember our beloved dead. Rites for visiting a cemetery can be found in the *Book of Blessings* #1734-1754 or in the 1988 *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (pp. 178-180; with additional prayers and practices suggested on pp. 181-183). Parishes may also want to consider using a book of remembrance or other method for recalling the dead of the parish. If a parish has a particular way of observing the month of November that they would like to share, please send me an e-mail.

Feast of the Anniversary of the Cathedral's Dedication

The Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral is observed as Feast in the diocese. Therefore, Masses celebrated on Wednesday, November 15, should be taken from the Common of the Dedication of a Church, 2. Anniversary of Dedication, B. Outside the Dedicated Church. The Preface for Dedication of a Church II (P53) is used. The readings are taken from the Common of the Anniversary of the Dedication of A Church, found in volumes II, III, or IV of the Lectionary, readings number 701-706. At the Cathedral itself, it is celebrated as a Solemnity—and has been translated to Sunday, November 18.

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 following Marian feasts and solemnities are observed during the Advent and Christmas Seasons:
 - a. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed on December 12 (Wednesday this year).
 - b. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, remains a Holy Day of obligation even though it falls on a Saturday this year. Ritual Masses and Funeral Masses may not be celebrated.
 - c. 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.

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.

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 the Lord of the harvest, who told us the harvest is ready and there is so much more work to be done, will send laborers into the vineyard; we pray...

(3) Weekly intercessions from the Liturgical Commission:

Nov 4 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those in government office, that they would use their authority for the common good. We pray...

Nov 11 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who are persecuted for their faith; for the grace of perseverance. We pray...

Nov 18 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

That the proud and evildoers would be brought low, and that the Sun of Justice would shine on all those who are oppressed. We pray...

Nov 25 34th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: CHRIST THE KING

For the unjustly condemned, and for all those on death row; for all victims of violence. We pray...

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK:
A Resource

The chalk to be blessed may be placed in a basket for the faithful to take home with them after Mass. The blessing prayers may be included on a card with the chalk or reproduced in the bulletin.

The blessing of the chalk takes place just before the final blessing and dismissal. The following prayer may be used:

**May God,
who provided a safe dwelling place
for the eternal Word,
bless this chalk,
the homes of the faithful,
and the people who live there,
through Christ our Lord.**

The prayer card or bulletin insert could include the following information and prayers → →

Note: Because the blessing of the chalk takes place before the final blessing, it would be best to proclaim the Date of Easter after the homily in order to avoid “overloading” the concluding rites.

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one’s home in the New Year.

The home blessing can be done as follows:
Use the blessed chalk to write:

20+C+M+B+08

above the doorways: 2008 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.”

As you are writing, pray one of the following prayers:

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ living among us; and may we seek and serve, in everyone we meet, that same Jesus who is Lord, forever and ever.
Amen.

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.
Bless this house and all who inhabit it.
Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord our God, bless this household.
May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and the keeping of your law.
We give thanks to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.