

## LITURGYNOTES – FOR OCTOBER 2015

### NEWS FROM THE USCCB & FDLC

#### In this issue...

- From the USCCB: Pope Francis in the US; Order of Celebrating Matrimony
- Year of Mercy
- Resources: the Homiletic Directory
- Events: Diocesan liturgies... continuing formation... Music Workshops
- Liturgical Calendar: Christmastime
- The Universal Prayer

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#### **Liturgical Formation Webpage:**

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litformation.htm>

#### **Year of Mercy:**

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litYearOfMercy.htm>

#### Pope Francis in the United States

The Holy Father's speeches and homilies are available on the USCCB website at:  
<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/2015-papal-visit-speeches-homilies.cfm>

#### Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

A final version of the Rite is not yet ready... still. We'll continue this column once the full Rite is available.

### YEAR OF MERCY

The Diocese of Davenport's webpage dedicated to our observation of the Year of Mercy is always being updated. Check it out at:  
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litYearOfMercy.htm>!

Some new resources that you may want to check out:

- Order of Worship for a deanery-wide reconciliation service
  - <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Temporary/YearOfMercy/litYearOfMercy-PenitentialLiturgy.pdf>
  - E-mail me if you want worship aids made; since the "master" posted on the website has a number of options regarding music, please let me know which music you want included.
- Order of Worship for a parish Holy Hour for Mercy
  - <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/Temporary/YearOfMercy/litYearOfMercy-HolyHour.pdf>
  - Likewise, e-mail me if you want worship aids made; since the "master" posted on the website has a number of options regarding music, please let me know which music you want included (and if you want to use the Litany of Mercy or the Chaplet).
- The composer of the official hymn for the Year of Mercy has made PDFs of his music available; they may be found in Dropbox at:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bui5evlkc3xy3s8/AAB8IM2DI6pJmpqZA0H7MT1a?dl=0>

In addition, information on all the pilgrimage churches has been posted.

**RESOURCE: HOMILETIC DIRECTORY**

Summary §§26-36

Part II of the *Directory* focuses on “concrete examples and suggestions to help the homilist put into practice the principles presented in this document” (#37). Therefore, this section should not be read as a recipe book to be used in cookie-cutter fashion, but simply as “ways of approaching particular themes and texts throughout the course of the liturgical year” (#37). Not all texts are covered, and not all the meanings possible in a given text are explored.

As the *Directory* itself cautions: “in what is offered here, no attempt is made to exhaust all that could be said about a given celebration or to move in detail through the whole liturgical year. Rather, in the light of the centrality of the Paschal Mystery, indications are offered on how particular texts could be handled within a given homily” (#38). What is offered here is a pattern, one possible approach. The preacher must still keep in mind the concrete situation of the assembly, the cultural context, and the liturgy being celebrated.

Rather than beginning with Advent, the *Directory* begins with the Paschal Triduum. The *Directory* then treats Eastertide and Lent before addressing Advent, Christmastime, and, finally, Ordinary Time. The section concludes with comments on preaching at other occasions: weekdays, weddings, and funerals.

We will cover each of these sections in subsequent columns.

Response

I get very concerned when a single approach to preaching is proposed, especially an approach that proposes or privileges a single meaning for a text or set of texts. While homilists may find the reflections here to be helpful in their preparation, just as reading any commentary might be, I would hope that they would appropriate the pattern—and the content—in a critical fashion.

Overall, I see two specific problems in this section. First, insights from the document *The Jewish People and their Sacred Scripture in the Christian Bible* seem to be missing. This omission leads to use of the Old (First) Testament in ways that can reduce it to a simple promise-fulfillment schema and even borders on supersessionism. Second, while some may find references to the *Catechism* to be helpful, preachers must keep in mind that preaching is not a catechetical lecture. While preaching must always be doctrinally sound, the genre of the homily must be respected.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

See the Liturgy Events webpage at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.

DIOCESAN LITURGIES

(TBA)

CONTINUING FORMATION FOR LITURGY / LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Music Workshops

Does your parish or choir have certain hymns that are done well for the glory of God? Are you looking for new hymns for your assemblies and/or choirs? Do you want to get together and sing/share music with other musicians from across the diocese? Then these free workshops are for you! We are inviting music ministers from around the diocese to come together and share resources for the various liturgical seasons:

Place	Date and Time	Liturgical Seasons
St. Mary Iowa City	Saturday, November 7, 2015 10:00am-Noon	Lent / Triduum / Eastertime
St. Alphonsus Mt. Pleasant	Saturday, May 7, 2016 10:00am-Noon	Ordinary Time Feasts & Solemnities

To register, simply send your music to the host at each site; that's all! No other registration is needed and there is no fee for attending. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm#MusicWorkshops>.

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

**LITURGY PREPARATION**

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*The 2016 Liturgical Calendar is also being sent with this edition of LiturgyNotes.*

November 1: The Solemnity of All Saints

The Solemnity of All Saints replaces the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Therefore, Ritual Masses and Funeral Masses are prohibited. On Sunday evening, the Mass of All Saints is still celebrated (All Souls is not anticipated when it falls on a weekday).

*Please note that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on November 1 – set your clocks back an hour!*

November 15: Anniversary of the Dedication of the Cathedral

In the Cathedral itself, the anniversary is celebrated as a Solemnity, and therefore replaces the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary time there. The anniversary is celebrated as a Feast in the rest of the diocese. Because the 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday, the observation outside the Cathedral is moved to Monday, November 16.

December 8: Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation; only the Mass of the Day is permitted. Ritual Masses (i.e., marriage, confirmation) and funeral Masses are prohibited. Marriages celebrated during Mass on that day must use the readings and orations of the holy day. A marriage or funeral may be celebrated outside of Mass using the texts from the Rite of Marriage or the Order of Christian Funerals.

Christmas and Christmastime

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; it is ideal if vestments and fabrics used are different from those used at Easter.
3. A good Penitential Rite is the third form, #II (now found in Appendix VI of the Missal).
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 (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, falls on a Friday this year and so is a Holy Day of obligation; neither Ritual Masses nor Funeral Masses may be celebrated.
8. There are two customary proclamations used during the Christmas Season. The deacon, reader, or cantor may sing/proclaim these texts, which will now be found in Appendix I of the Missal. See the diocesan website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm>.
  - 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 Holy Spirit was incarnate 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 *Missal* 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*, ch. 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. 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. 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. The Epiphany blessing is also available on our website: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litevents.htm> OR <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/liturgylibrary/litEpiphanyChalkBlessing.pdf>.

#### INTERCESSIONS

Here are resources for the Universal Prayer:

(1) Intercessions for various life issues may be found on the USCCB website at:

<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/intercessory-prayers-for-life.cfm>

(2) Intercession for vocations (in English and Spanish) keyed to the lectionary cycle may be found at the Diocese of Arlington website:

[http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc\\_intercessions.aspx](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx)

(3) Lectionary-based intercessions focused on social justice can be found at the Center of Concern website:

<http://www.coc.org/ef>

(4) The Center for Liturgy website offers general intercessions for each Sunday as well:

<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

(5) The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops offers intercessions and homily ideas as part of their Pastoral Initiative for Life and Family:

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/3296-documents-and-activities-proposed-by-the-ccb>

(6) See also our website for prayer resources in times of crisis:

<http://www.davenportdiocese.org/lit/litlibrary.htm#Prayers>

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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