

Dear servants of the liturgy,

I would like to thank everyone – assembly, ministers, and clergy; vendors and presenters – who made our 125th Anniversary celebration such a special occasion. It was a joy and a privilege to be part of such an important milestone in our history!

And, speaking of milestones, I would like to announce that the Diocesan Liturgical Commission—in response to the direction set by the Celebrating the Faith Task Force—has completed two tools that parishes and other worshipping communities can use to evaluate and improve their liturgies. The first, entitled **Parish Liturgy Survey** is intended to be distributed to the assembly as a way to solicit feedback on the parish's liturgical life. The second, **Assessment Tool for Parish Liturgical Life**, is intended to be used by the community's liturgical leadership (such as a liturgy committee or commission) to do a more comprehensive evaluation of how a parish celebrates its liturgies.

These are *not* intended to be returned to the diocese, but are offered as tools for communities to use as they seek to deepen their worship life together. Members of the DLC are happy to assist parishes in the use of these instruments in whatever way would be most helpful. Please feel free to give me a call.

The instruments can be found on the diocesan website at: <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/ddo-offices/page7.html#other.docs>.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

THE U.S. BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL PRACTICES

This committee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has been studying the question of fostering greater attendance at Sunday Mass. After wide consultation, they have published a number of suggestions that parishes can implement. I will reprint one of the nine suggestions in each issue of the *LiturgyNotes*:

#3 Affirm new parishioners. Offer a monthly reception for new parishioners. Send new parishioners a personal invitation from the pastor [or parish life administrator] to become active in parish life. Establish a Parish Welcoming Committee. Work with local realtors and building developments to get information on the parish out to people. It may be possible that realtors and developers would also be willing to share the names of Catholic families moving into the area.

LITURGY FORMATION SURVEY

Thanks to all who have responded to the survey. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission has requested that I keep accepting responses until the beginning of Advent—so please get your forms back to me as soon as you can. The survey can be found on the diocesan website at <http://www.davenportdiocese.org/ddo-offices/page7.html#other.docs>. Just click on “liturgy survey” – available in both PDF and Word formats.

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS...

St. Patrick’s in Iowa City is looking for a set of Stations of the Cross that they might use in their temporary worship space. Anyone who has a set they are willing to lend or donate is asked to contact Fr. Rudy Juarez at 319-337-2856 or this office at the numbers listed above.

In anticipation of diocesan liturgies—such as the Chrism Mass, Rite of Election, and ordinations—I would like to begin developing a list of truly outstanding liturgical ministers that would be willing to serve at such rites. If you know someone who is an excellent server, reader, musician, or usher/greeter, please (after you have their permission) send me their name and contact information. That way, when a big event comes along, we’ll know who to call first! Thanks!

*UPCOMING EVENTS*DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY ON NOVEMBER 12

The Diocesan Youth Rally is Sunday, Nov. 12, at the Coralville Marriott Conference Center. More than 800 youth from over 30 parishes are expected to participate. Priests and deacons wishing to participate in the liturgy should contact Pat Finan at finan@davenportdiocese.org or (563) 324-1912, ext. 242, by Monday, Nov. 6. Clergy are asked to bring their own vestments (green) and arrive by 3:30 p.m. to vest and receive instructions. Thank you!

CONTINUING FORMATION OPPORTUNITIESRCIA: Beginnings and Beyond

A Beginnings and Beyond conference will be held in the diocese July 19-22, 2007. Location is still being determined, but all those involved in the RCIA will want to mark down those dates!

Liturgical Opportunities for Youth

Among the needs often expressed around the diocese is the need to foster the involvement of youth in the Church, and particularly in the liturgy. **Youth in Theology and Ministry (YTM)**, held at St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN, “is a camp for high school youth who want to deepen their understanding and practice of their Catholic faith.” The two-week experience includes theology classes, service learning projects, and prayer. Please see their website at www.ytm-sju.org. The **Youth Liturgical Leadership Program**, sponsored by St. Meinrad

School of Theology (St. Meinrad, IN), seeks to “reach out to young adults and provide them with the tools necessary to become effective leaders in their parishes and communities...by laying strong foundations in liturgy and prayer.” The cornerstone of the program is the week-long One Bread, One Cup Conference, held three times each summer, involving high school participants as well as college interns. Please see http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/programs_youth_ovr.aspx for more information.

LITURGY PREPARATION

INTERCESSIONS

Below please find three intercessions for each Sunday of the month. The first is an “intercession for life” provided by the USCCB. The second is an intercession for vocations, courtesy of the vocations office. Finally, there is an intercession written by a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and inspired by the readings of the day. Please use and/or adapt them as you see fit.

Nov. 1st ALL SAINTS

For a spirit of gratitude to grow and deepen in the hearts of all people...

For all who work with youth; we pray to the Lord.

For the insight to see a child of God in the face of the panhandler, the non-English speaker, the prisoner and the refugee ...

Nov. 5th 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the members of our Supreme Court, that they may sustain and promote the right to life of every little child from the first moment of conception...

For the members of parish vocations committees, that they may see fruit of their efforts in a rich harvest of vocations to the priesthood and religious life...

For continued openness and dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims, who all believe the Lord our God is Lord alone...

Nov. 12th 32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For newly married couples, that their love for each other might nourish their faith and strengthen their commitment to do God’s will...

For all altar servers, that they may find joy in service at the altar of God....

For those who help feed others: food pantry workers, CROP walkers, cafeteria staff, and food stamp offices...

Nov. 19th 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who await death in prisons, hospitals, and at home: that we might remember them in prayer, beg God's mercy for their sins, and love them as Christ loved us...

For the clergy and religious of our diocese, that their example may be an encouragement for young people to consider a church vocation....

For those whose lives are uprooted through no fault of their own: refugees, children of divorce, downsized workers, and victims of war...

Nov. 26th SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

That all government leaders might recognize and promote the inalienable right to life of every person from conception to natural death...

For the immigrant clergy who serve the church within our diocese, that they may be blessed for their generosity and that we may be enriched by their missionary spirit

For those peoples oppressed by their rulers and the movements of freedom alive in the world today...

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Priesthood Sunday

Priesthood Sunday is being observed on October 29 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.