



Prairie Praise

A newsletter from the
Office of Worship
Diocese of New Ulm
Winter 2007

Greetings to all those who love and live the liturgy! This newsletter is for pastoral leaders, liturgical ministers, liturgy planners, and liturgy committees as a response to those who value information regarding liturgy. Below is Mary's prayer of praise from the Gospel of Luke which is prayed at Evening Prayer. It is a great prayer for reflection during the Advent Season.



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The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him,
In every generation.

He has shown strength of his arm
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
For he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Text © by ICEL, from the Liturgy of the Hours, 1975

November Bishop's Meeting

The USCCB has restructured some of its offices. Formally known as the Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy, (BCL) the new title of this office is the Committee of Divine Worship.

A few liturgical documents were voted on at the November United States Council of Catholic Bishops meeting. The document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* was approved and has been posted to the USCCB Committee of Divine Worship webpage <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy>. It is found under the "What's new" column.

The PDF document is 86 pages and may take some time to download. It is recommended that this be studied by anyone who is responsible for music in the parish. Though approved at the November USCCB meeting, the publication of the document is pending the Holy See's *recognitio* of the *Directory for Music and the Liturgy for Use in the Dioceses in the United States of America*, approved by the USCCB at its 2006 November meeting.

"Together with the 'Directory on Music in the Liturgy', it is hoped that 'Sing to the Lord' will provide guidance for clergy, musicians, and liturgists, and articulate well a vision of liturgical music that will support the sung worship of the liturgical assembly". (*BCL Newsletter*, Volume XLIII, August 2007, pg. 34)



Workshops Invigorate and Challenge Parish Liturgy Teams

About 150 people attended the October 24-27 Liturgy Team Workshops which were held in four locations throughout the Diocese. Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman, who is nationally recognized for teaching and promoting liturgical ministry, spoke of how the liturgy is closely connected to the Paschal Mystery: "In its deepest sense this 'full, conscious, and active participation' means no less than our *engagement* in the liturgical action itself (active participation), our *surrender* to its mystery (conscious participation), and our *transformation* into being ever more perfect members of the body of Christ (full participation)... the real fruit of liturgy is found in our living and dying and rising mystery of Christ in our everyday lives."

Also stressed was the need to be very cautious of devotional prayer that creeps into liturgical prayer (see page three of this newsletter). Quoting from the Vatican document *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, Sr. Joyce noted that it is not allowed to mix popular devotions with the Liturgy. "We sometimes expect the Liturgy to take care of the needs that should be met with individual and devotional prayer", she says. "When our devotional life is not fed, there tends to be a desire to use the liturgy for entertainment, or as a town hall meeting of the parish community, rather than a time to give thanks and praise to God."

Other items that were discussed included silence, song texts, the upcoming translation of the Roman Missal and the role of the parish liturgy team. If you would like a recording of Sr. Joyce's presentation, contact the Office of Worship.



Liturgy and Popular Devotional Practices

Popular devotions have significant merit and should be highly promoted for use in the home, at meetings, in schools and religious education programs and in religious societies in the parish. Some of these devotions include the *Crowning of Mary, Way of the Cross, Indulgences, Hail Mary and the Rosary, Divine Mercy, Litanies, and Novena's*.

Insertion of these devotional prayers into the liturgy should be avoided. This is in accord with the Second Vatican Council and the GIRM which states that “the priest must remember that he is the servant of the sacred Liturgy and that he himself is not permitted, on his own initiative, to add, to remove, or to change anything in the celebration of Mass.” (SC, 22 and GIRM, 24)

What do the documents say?

...every liturgical action, because it is an action of Christ the Priest and of his Body which is the Church, is a sacred action surpassing all others; no other action of the Church can equal its effectiveness by the same title and to the same degree.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 7

The objective difference between pious exercises and devotional practices should always be clear in expressions of worship. Hence, the formulae proper to pious exercises should not be commingled with the liturgical actions. Acts of devotion and piety are external to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and of the other sacraments.

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, 13

Popular religiosity, of course, certainly has its limits. It is often subject to penetration by many distortions of religion and even superstitions. It frequently remains at the level of forms of worship not involving a true acceptance by faith. It can even lead to the creation of sects and endanger the true ecclesial community.

Evangelii Nuntiandi, 48

These devotions should be so drawn up that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them. While the liturgy always remains the primary reference point, the liturgy and popular piety are two forms of worship which are in mutual and fruitful relationship with each other.

Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 61

Lack of consideration for popular piety, or disrespect for it, often betrays an inadequate understanding of certain ecclesial realities and is not infrequently the product not so much of the doctrine of the faith, but of some ideologically inspired prejudice... In the relationship between the Liturgy and popular piety, the opposite phenomenon is also encountered - the importance of popular piety is overestimated practically to the detriment of the Church's Liturgy.

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, 50-51

The mystery of the Eucharist – sacrifice, presence, banquet – does not allow for reduction or exploitation; it must be experienced and lived in its integrity...

Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 61

For more information on Popular Devotions, contact the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Worship.

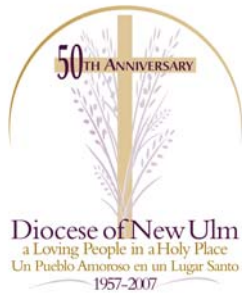
Advent Prayer Ideas

1. Attend a daily Mass during the week.
2. Consider attending the Diocesan **Advent Prayer Service**. This will be held on December 16 at St. Mary's Church in New Ulm. Bring baby items to donate and your baby Jesus figurine from your manger scene (crèche) to have blessed by Msgr. Douglas Grams. This is a great event for families with grade school children.
3. Spend a moment reflecting on the prayer of the *Magnificat*, found on the front cover of this newsletter. How have the promises of God been evident in your life?



DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

All are invited to the two remaining celebrations of
the 50th Anniversary



Sunday, June 22, 2008

3:30 p.m.

Diocesan Festival

Mass and Picnic Supper

Redwood Falls Community Center

Sunday, November 16, 2008

3:30 p.m.

50th Anniversary Closing Celebration

Vespers and Program

Church of the Holy Redeemer, Marshall

Check out the Diocese of New Ulm Office of Worship
website at www.dnu.org/worship for updated liturgical news.