



Office of Worship Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

915 South Clinton Street ♦ Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802

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<http://www.diocesefwsb.org/diocesan-offices/worship-office/>

May 24, 2010

Dear Priests & Deacons,

Greetings – I hope all had a blessed Easter Season. Attached you will find a copy of a liturgical calendar listing major diocesan events and other significant dates through year’s end.

The New Translation of the Roman Missal

The big news, of course, is that the Congregation for Divine Worship in late April gave its *recognitio* to the complete text of the revised English translation of the Roman Missal. Although the texts have now been approved, we will probably not be receiving the actual implementation date for a few more weeks. The most common estimate is that we will not begin using the new texts until Advent of 2011; however, it could be sooner. **Once again, it is very important to keep in mind that none of these new texts may be used in an actual liturgy prior to the official implementation date.** We must ensure that the entire Diocese acts in unison when the use of the new texts begins.

Many have been inquiring as to what sort of resources they should use to prepare the people in the parish, or what sort of programs the Diocese will offer. The following should give you an idea for our local catechetical and preparation plans.

For Clergy: As has been previously communicated, our diocesan Priests Continuing Education Days, scheduled for October 12-14, 2010 in Angola, will focus entirely on the new Missal. Our lead speaker will be Fr. Andrew Wadsworth, the executive director of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL – the organization that has overseen the new translation process), who will visit us from Washington, D.C. In his talks, he will deliver an overview and background of the new translation, a look at the changes and benefits involved, and an examination of how this will affect the way that clergy should celebrate Mass – including a focus on *ars celebrandi* (the “art of proper celebration,” to which Pope Benedict has often referred). A session on liturgical chant and the new translation will be led by Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB – a renowned chant expert and sacred music scholar from St. John’s University in Collegeville, MN. I will offer a final session to discuss further implementation plans in this Diocese.

For Parishes & Laity: The central workshop the Diocese will offer for the people in the pews is “Mystical Body, Mystical Voice,” a day-long program prepared by the Liturgical Institute at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL (www.mysticalbodymysticalvoice.org).

This is an excellent program that is being scheduled in Dioceses all across the country. It is designed to equip attendees to “teach others about the liturgy and the words we say at Mass.” As such, although we hope to have enough space to accommodate anyone who wishes to attend, first priority at this program will be given to clergy and parish leaders or staff – particularly



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catechists, teachers, church musicians, etc. The hope is that those who attend would then be able to return to the parishes and help catechize their brothers and sisters in a positive and informed fashion during the months prior to the implementation of the new texts. Also included in the registration cost will be a book prepared by the Liturgical Institute, which can serve as a manual for conveying the same material back to the parishes.

As a joint project of the Office of Catechesis and the Office of Worship, we will be scheduling “Mystical Body, Mystical Voice” for one day in Fort Wayne and one day in South Bend, so there will be an opportunity at each end of the Diocese. We are working on booking venues on Saturdays in March of 2011 for these two workshops. Once plans are finalized, we will be sending out registration information to the parishes this fall.

Article and Bulletin Inserts: A series of articles is being prepared to appear in *Today’s Catholic* during the fall, going over the history, content, and expectations of the new translation. An introductory article will be published during the summer to coincide with the announcement of the official implementation date. The entire series will be archived and made available online.

In addition, we will be preparing similar, condensed material to appear in a string of bulletin inserts, which any parish may publish over the course of several months, probably starting in the fall. My hope is that it will provide a repeated opportunity for Mass-goers to see some of the new texts every Sunday after receiving a bulletin. Once these inserts are ready for publication, we will make sure to inform all the parish bulletin editors.

Other Resources: Once again, a terrific place for learning about the new Missal is the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship’s Roman Missal website (<http://usccb.org/romanmissal/>). For study purposes, it features the approved text of the new Order of the Mass (including a breakdown of the people’s parts and the priest’s parts), as well as many other resources. This website is something you could certainly encourage anyone to use, so it would be wise to include the link on parish homepages (web banners are available from the USCCB) or to list it in the parish bulletin even now.

Sometime during the summer, the USCCB will also be publishing a *Parish Guide for the Implementation of the Roman Missal*. In addition, ICEL and the Bishop of Leeds, England have spearheaded an interactive DVD project, called “Become One Body, One Spirit in Christ.” Although neither of these resources are actually available yet, both promise to be worthwhile, and further information will be sent out after their release.

Many other publishers across the country are advertising material about the new translation; but again, some are better than others. The materials listed above will be among the best. Some of you have also received a sample of the “Understanding the Revised Mass Texts” pamphlet series developed by Liturgy Training Publications (LTP) in Chicago – it, too, appears to be a worthwhile resource. And in our own Diocese, the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy has



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collaborated with prominent scholars to record a series of “web catecheses” (15 minutes apiece) on the new translation, accessible here: <http://liturgy.nd.edu/webcatechesis/>.

Beyond the materials and programs the Diocese will be providing or recommending, it is imperative to examine with great care any resources you may want to use in your parish. Please do not hesitate to ask for my recommendations or thoughts on a particular resource. And if I can be of assistance in any other way with respect to catechetical efforts, including helping with a presentation in your parish, please let me know.

Looking ahead: Although it may be over a year before we begin using the new texts, it is important that we begin catechizing even now, because the faithful know that something is coming, but many are unsure as to the nature of the changes. Indeed, particularly through the fault of unhelpful voices in the media, there are many fears and misconceptions being spread about the new translation. We must let the people know that there are to be no ritual changes – the Mass will remain the same. Rather, it is simply the words that are being changed, and for the better. As the USCCB’s website says, “New words: a deeper meaning, but the same Mass.” Do not hesitate to encourage parishioners to study and even pray the new words of the Mass at home, to become more comfortable with their rhythm and content. And we must always work to convey the practical and theological reasons for the new translation, which is ordered towards a greater “conscious” participation through richness and reverence.

Saint Mother Theodore Guérin

This spring, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend received official approval from the Vatican to inscribe the feast of St. Mother Theodore Guérin (St. Theodora Guérin) into the Proper Liturgical Calendar of the Diocese. She is henceforth to be commemorated on October 3rd as an Obligatory Memorial. According to liturgical law, the prayers proper to a Saint’s celebration cannot be used in a particular place unless he or she is officially inscribed in a binding liturgical calendar. Since St. Mother Theodore is not currently in the universal or U.S. calendar, this is an important occasion for us.

Unfortunately, as timing would have it, October 3rd falls on the Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time this year, so her Memorial cannot be observed until 2011. Nonetheless, an article explaining the news will appear in the diocesan newspaper, honoring the Saint whose work has so concretely impacted our Diocese, and who herself walked its grounds.

Pueri Cantores

As some of you may have heard from our Catholic school principals, the Diocese will be hosting a “Pueri Cantores” festival at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of Notre Dame on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Pueri Cantores (“young singers”) is the official student choral



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organization of the Catholic Church, headquartered in the Vatican and moderated in this country by Cardinal Francis George of Chicago (the American website is <http://www.pcchoirs.org/>).

With the support of the Catholic Schools Office, we will be asking a number of singers from each of our diocesan schools to participate in this festival, which involves learning a more classical repertoire and singing at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades. If all goes well, we could have 400 singers, and this could become an annual event.

A mailing with additional information will shortly be on its way to the Catholic school principals and music teachers. If you have a school associated with your parish, please offer any kind of encouragement that you can for this endeavor. Aside from fulfilling a need that the universal Church and the United States Bishops have recognized – namely, that Catholics of all ages be familiar with (and actually use in worship) the rich sacred music heritage of the Roman Catholic Church, including some Latin chants – *Pueri Cantores* provides a great means to integrate an important emphasis on the fine arts into the academic curriculum.

Other Notes

Revised Rite of Penance: The USCCB has published a revised *Rite of Penance* book. The revision uses readings from the revised Lectionary, and also includes appendices with sample penitential services and a suggested form for an examination of conscience. However, there are no changes to the actual ritual forms of Penance.

Masses outside Sacred Places: Since it is a question that often comes up, this is a clarification that for any proposal to celebrate public Mass outdoors or in a building that is not a place officially designated for divine worship, the permission of the diocesan Bishop must be obtained. As noted in *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 108: “The celebration of the Eucharist is to be carried out in a sacred place, unless in a particular case necessity requires otherwise. In this case the celebration must be in a decent place’ (cf. *Code of Canon Law*, 932). The diocesan Bishop shall be the judge for his diocese concerning this necessity, on a case-by-case basis.”

Holy Communion outside Mass: Also in response to inquiries, this is a reminder of the diocesan norms established in 2006, which stipulate: “Communion services are not to be held on Sundays or weekdays without the permission of the diocesan Bishop” (cf. *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 166). Exceptions include hospitals and nursing homes, services for prisoners, and during priest retreats and continuing education days. The full norms can be viewed on our website (<http://www.diocesefwsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Norms-for-Communion-Services.pdf>).

Funeral Plans: Lastly, in a disturbing trend, there have increasingly been accounts of lifelong devout Catholics who pass away, but whose surviving family or caretakers are not practicing and so make no Catholic funeral arrangements. The deceased faithful are therefore often buried



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without a Mass. While it may not always be a foolproof legal solution, the State of Indiana has instituted a “Funeral Planning Declaration” form to help ensure that one’s desires for his or her own funeral ceremonies will be honored. Last November, *Today’s Catholic* ran an article explaining this, and it can be read on our website (<http://www.diocesefwsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/funeralplanninglaw.pdf>). The actual “Funeral Planning Declaration” can be accessed here: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title29/ar2/ch19.html>. Please help make this information known.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian MacMichael".

Brian MacMichael

Director, Office of Worship