

OFFICE OF WORSHIP
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

January 8, 2009

Dear Priests, Musicians, and Liturgical Associates,

I hope you have enjoyed a blessed Christmas Season and a fine start to the New Year. In this mailing you will find a 2009 diocesan liturgical calendar. An updated calendar can be expected later, when dates for autumn events are finalized. Liturgical notes on Lent and other occasions are also enclosed. (An interesting side note: it will be over 150 years before Easter again falls as early as it did in 2008.) Other important material in this mailing includes the following:

- ◆ **Amendment to the “Rite of Sending” of Extraordinary Ministers to the Sick:** Bishop D’Arcy has approved an official change to our Diocesan Guidelines, such that extraordinary ministers to the sick are no longer required to leave with the Blessed Sacrament prior to the end of Mass. His detailed notification is enclosed with this mailing.
- ◆ **Diocesan Trainings & Workshops:** You will find a full size brochure listing all the various ministry trainings and retreat opportunities being offered by the Office of Worship. Please advertise these in your parishes, noting that attendees must pre-pay by mail. All brochures and information are also readily downloadable on our website (listed below).
- ◆ **Organist Training Program:** Utilizing reputable organ instructors from across the Diocese, this program is a great opportunity to train a new generation of organists. Please encourage anyone who might have the talent and interest to apply, keeping in mind that funding opportunities exist. A brochure is included, and may be printed off our website. The Second Vatican Council affirms, “the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church’s ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man’s mind to God and to higher things” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 120).
- ◆ **January 25, Conversion of St. Paul:** In honor of the Pauline Year, the Congregation for Divine Worship has given special permission for one Mass of the Conversion of St. Paul to be celebrated on its proper date of Sunday, January 25, 2009 (whereas all Masses that day are normally for the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time). If this option is exercised, the second reading is to be taken from the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, and the Creed is still recited.
- ◆ **Notre Dame Conference:** The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy will focus on the liturgical theology of Saint Paul at its summer conference (June 15-17, 2009). Fr. Robert Taft, S.J. of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome will deliver the keynote. A full brochure is included.
- ◆ **The Diocesan Liturgy Day will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 8:30 AM–1:00 PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw.** A brochure and a flyer are included with this mailing, and may be copied or printed from our website. The Liturgy Day will cover the recent U.S. Bishops’ music document and examine the use of Gregorian chant in parishes. This is a terrific opportunity to learn more about these topics right here in our Diocese. All attendees must pre-register and pre-pay. Please advertise this throughout the parish, and encourage anyone interested in the history and future of sacred music to attend!

In Christ,



Brian MacMichael
Director, Office of Worship