



Prairie Praise

A newsletter from the
Office of Worship
Diocese of New Ulm
Winter 2009



The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord occurs forty days after Christmas. It recalls the day in which Jesus was brought to the temple of Jerusalem and was referred to as the “light of revelation” (*see Luke 2: 22-39*). In the past this was referred to as “Candlemas” (i.e., Candle Mass) because the blessing of candles and the carrying of them in procession was common. Christ as the light of the world is symbolized in our use of candles in the liturgy and helps to express our faith in the home. Since February 2nd falls on a Monday that coincides with the days that priests and pastoral administrators gather for Pastoral Leader Days, parishes may celebrate this on the weekend prior to February 2. Parishioners may be invited to bring a candle from home to be blessed at Mass during the weekend of January 31 and February 1, 2009. Candles that will be used in the parish may also be blessed at this time.



The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion will be held on Sunday, March 8th at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm, starting at 3:00 p.m. Traditionally this has been held on the first Sunday of Lent, but it has been moved to the Second Sunday of Lent this year. Parishes should plan to celebrate the Rite of Sending at a parish liturgy that weekend.



Now that the liturgical preparations for the Christmas Season are wrapping up, there is a short span of time to catch our breath before preparing for Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25th. Have you ever thought about taking time for a retreat? Maybe this is the year for you to gift yourself with a few days of solitude. Consider making a silent retreat. The Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN is a great setting. They offer a wide variety of retreat options. Go to their website to see what is available: <http://www.kingshouse.com/calendar.html>. Make time for yourself to that you have something to give to others.



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins with a celebration on Sunday, January 18th at 2 p.m. at Willmar United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to take part in praying for the unity of all Christians.



Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship

Order from the Office of Worship to receive a 30% discount off the \$9.95 regular price!

Sing to the Lord will help you

- evaluate your parish's current musical repertoire
- understand your role in sung worship
- prepare particular sacramental liturgies
- train parish music ministers

Ordering is as easy as contacting the Office of Worship at 507-359-2966 or emailing Kathy Huebert at khuebert@dnu.org. Specify how many copies you wish to receive and for which parish you are ordering for.



Remember to order all Liturgical Training Publications resources from the Diocesan Office of Worship to receive a 30% discount on most items!



The Office of Worship will assist parishes in training cantors, accompanists, music planners, and liturgy committees. Contact Ann Przybilla at przybilla@dnu.org or call her at 507-233-5320. She will be happy to discuss with you what is available for liturgical training and liturgical catechesis at your parish or area faith community.



Preparing for a Catholic Funeral



Brochures are available through the Office of Worship at a cost of 50 cents each. Ideal for pre-planning, this brochure can be placed in the entrance of any church, funeral home, or parish office. It can serve as a catechetical tool to learn more about the symbols of our faith. It is also helpful for families that may struggle in understanding Catholic burial practices. If you wish to order over 500 copies, contact the Office of Worship and ask for a special discount.

Bishops Approve Section of the Roman Missal, third edition

The Church continues to move forward with translating the Latin *Roman Missal* into a usable English text. The U.S. bishops approved another section of the Missal, the *Proper of Seasons* at their General Assembly in Baltimore on November 11, 2008 with a 189-30 vote. Now that the bishops have approved the text, it will be submitted for *recognitio*, or approval by the Holy See.

The Roman Missal includes a total of twelve sections. The first section, the *Order of Mass I*, is the only section to be complete with the *recognitio*. The *Proper of Seasons* is the second section of the Missal to be sent to Rome. Out of the ten remaining sections, three are ready to be voted on at the Bishop's meeting in June of 2009. Seven more sections will require further review by the Committee on Divine Worship before they go to a vote by the full body of Bishops. It is estimated that by November of 2010, the Bishops will have voted on each section. The *recognitio* from Rome will be sought and following that we could be praying the new translation by 2011.

Although the Order of Mass I has received the *recognitio*, dioceses, and parishes are asked not to implement any changes this time. It would be a mistake to move ahead without proper catechesis prior to the new texts being used at Mass. Publishers will also need time to prepare for new liturgical books. Each parish will need to budget for a purchase a new Sacramentary.

For the timetable of the translation of the Roman Missal, you may visit the website <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/TimetableNov2008.pdf>. Other formational materials will be posted at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/missalformation/index.shtml>.



Foundations: A Discipleship Formation Program

The *Foundations* program began in the fall of 2004. The purpose of the program was to provide a solid foundation of faith formation for those involved in parish and area ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm and anyone interested in a more systematic study of the Catholic faith. It started as a two year program but is now a one year process which can be followed by another year of more intense learning in the *Together in Communion* program.

The basic course outline includes: Introduction to the Christian Scriptures, Introduction to the Jewish Scriptures, Introduction to Catholic Theology, Theology of the Catholic Church, Theology of Sacraments, Prayer and Liturgy, Morality and the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church. One subject is covered for each Saturday session that meets from September-April. If you are interested in learning more about this faith formation opportunity, contact the Diocese of New Ulm.

Eucharist

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

As the Christmas Season comes and goes, we will soon be putting away those things that spark sentimentality in us and express the true meaning of Christmas. We also begin to use the gifts that have been given to us. We may feel we have not deserved these gifts or that we can do without some of them. Or we may have been given a particular gift that is very useful to us, leaving us wondering how we could have ever gotten along without it. Other gifts have hidden potential, like the newest electronic gadgets, until we are taught how to use them. This goes to show that the effectiveness of any gift is only as good as our learning and knowing how to make use of it.

The command to eat and drink in memory of Him is an awesome gift. Jesus left this gift to his disciples, not to be ignored or cast aside, but to be treasured and celebrated. Consider the many saints who have found strength and healing from this gift. Participating in the Eucharist on a regular basis leads the entire people of God toward holiness and community, as this Sacrament is both the sign and cause of unity.

For most of us, at a very young age we learned how to reverently receive our Lord, how to celebrate Mass, and the meaning of the offerings of bread and wine. Celebrating our First Communion was just the beginning. Then we matured, realizing that there is much more to Eucharist than putting on a white garment and learning our prayers. Adults who are committed to the Church, a Eucharistic Church, are called to “put on” the attitudes that reflect the unity of Christ (*see Colossians 3:12*).



A gift is not a gift unless it is given willingly and accepted by another. We choose to accept the gift of the Eucharist by: participating in Mass, spending time in adoration, actively doing God’s will in our daily activities, seeking to know more about Him and learning his will, educating ourselves about the Eucharist through reading devotional books, scripture or taking part in formational classes. When we do these things, it becomes easier for us to live in Christian virtue.

The Catechism lists numerous titles for this Sacrament, such as sacrifice, thanksgiving, communion, and memorial. Because it is the one Sacrament that has “inexhaustible richness” there can not be one way to describe it. There is also not one single way that the Sacrament affects us. It unites us, strengthens us to live in charity, detaches us from sinful habits, helps us to recognize Christ in the poor, and grants us a pledge of eternal life. We “become the gift that we receive” by openly partaking and making use of this precious gift that has been given freely from our Lord.