

LITURGY NOTES

A Resource for Worship & Spirituality Commissions

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Diocese of Gary

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Welcome!

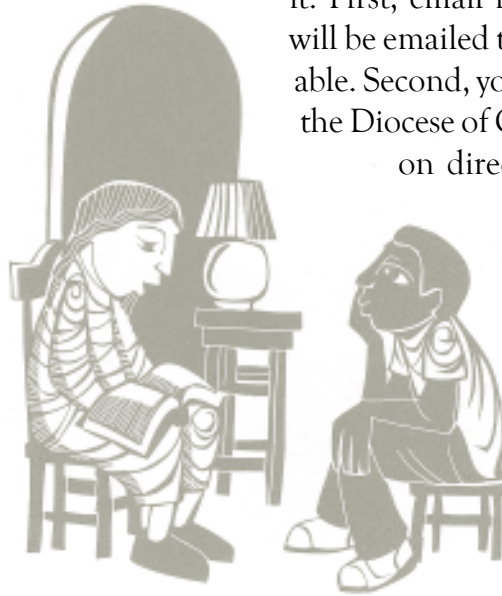
Does your parish have a worship commission? If not, then let us help you begin a commission. If you do have a worship commission, how is it going? We from the Office of Worship and the Office for Pastoral Councils and Commissions are here to help you start, build and rejuvenate the commission.

This is a new resource prepared by the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. In 2006, the Diocese of Gary issued "A Future Full of Hope: A Parish Guide to Renewal" that offered a theological piece and questions for the various parish commissions and the pastoral council to discuss in order to see the possibilities of parish life and ministry. Over the last three years, parishes have returned to this important resource document in order to continue to evaluate, grow, develop and to continue the good work in each of the commission areas. In order to support the work of the Worship and Spirituality Commissions in all of the parishes, we in the Office of Worship will be publishing this one to two page resource entitled, "Liturgy Notes." If you have ideas for future topics. Let us know!

We suggest that you pass out Liturgy Notes to all the members of the worship and spirituality commission.

Have members read it, and then discuss the questions provided. If you would like to receive Liturgy Notes directly, we have multiple ways you may receive it. First, email me at kseaman@dcgary.org and you will be emailed the document when it becomes available. Second, you may download the document from the Diocese of Gary website: www.dcgary.org/ Click

on directory of offices, the Office of Worship and click on the link at the top of the page, "Liturgy Notes". The third way is to submit your name and mailing address to Kristopher Seaman at the Office of Worship (see address, telephone, email at the top of this page). We also encourage your comments and suggestions!



Resources

Here are some resources for your worship and spirituality commission. Both documents are available online at www.dcgary.org or by calling the Pastoral Center: 769.9292

❖ **"Pastoral Council Manual"** from the Diocese of Gary, 2002. Also contains important information for starting and building up the commissions.

❖ **"A Future Full of Hope"** from the Diocese of Gary, 2006. Structured on the commissions, this document has much to discuss each year by commission and committee members.

This Issue

The Liturgical Assembly

The two-fold purpose of liturgy is to praise the Triune God and consequently for the assembly to be transformed. The Second Vatican Council issued the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy in 1963. Article 10 of this constitution states that the participation of the liturgical assembly is “indispensable” and is the believer’s “primary” source of holiness. In the liturgical assembly the believer is invited or called to participate in the liturgy. Why is participation important? Because liturgy manifests and expresses the power and presence of Christ. In the liturgy, Christ comes to us through words, people, gifts of bread and wine that are transformed into his Body and Blood, so that, we might too be transformed more



and more deeply into Christ’s Body and poured out for the life of the world. Participation in Christ’s saving mystery transforms the participants more deeply into the image of Christ so that they continue to grow in communion with God and one another.

In the liturgy, the assembly participates through their responses, singing, listening, standing, sitting, kneeling, seeing, understanding, actively engaging what is happening. The assembly’s participation, is therefore, a source of holiness, and is indispensable. As Worship and Liturgy Commissions, we ask questions of how the liturgical assembly in our parish is actively engaged and participating in liturgies.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the assembly currently participate in the liturgies of the parish? Responses? Music? Posture?
2. In what ways could participation improve without it becoming a purely educational enterprise?
3. Is the assembly aware that their participation is “indispensable?” What catechesis is done to educate the assembly on the importance of their participation?
4. Since having discussed the diocesan “Future Full of Hope: A Parish Guide to Renewal”, how has participation grown? Where does it need to improve? Music? Posture? Responses? etc.

Notable Quote:

In the reform and promotion of the liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else.

For it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit....

(Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, article 14)

