



Office for Divine Worship Newsletter

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Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith Reaffirms Necessity of Valid Sacramental Formulas (from the BCDW February 2024 Newsletter)

Responding to an increasing number of situations in which ministers did not use valid sacramental formulas, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith published a Note on February 2, 2024 entitled *Gestis verbisque* (“With deeds and words”). It provides some fundamental principles of Catholic sacramental theology and examines the role of the sacraments in the life of the Church: the way the Church receives and expresses herself through the sacraments, the way she preserves and is preserved by them, and some considerations about presiding at the liturgy and the *ars celebrandi*. The Note is available at:

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dcf_doc_20240202_gestis-verbisque_en.html.

Gestis verbisque emphasizes that the matter and form of the sacraments are rooted in the Sacred Scriptures and in the tradition of the Church, and through a sacrament’s prayers and actions Christ himself acts. Any arbitrary modification to these two elements jeopardizes the bestowal of sacramental grace and harms the Christian faithful. The Dicastery also draws attention to an additional criterion for validity: the intention of the minister to do what the Church does. These two elements show forth the administration of the sacraments as an act that is both human and ecclesial, not mechanical or isolated. In this light, it becomes clear that to modify the matter or the form, or not to intend to do what the Church does, wounds ecclesial unity.

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Holy See Confirms Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

(from the BCDW February 2024 Newsletter)

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the revised English edition of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) and its Spanish version, the Ritual de la Iniciación cristiana de adultos (RICA), for liturgical use in the United States. The decrees of confirmation were issued on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 (Prot. n. 234/22 for the English, Prot. n. 235/22 for the Spanish), and received by the USCCB shortly thereafter, along with the final texts. They are undergoing a customary editorial review period by the Secretariat of Divine Worship before an implementation schedule is recommended to the USCCB.

The revised OCIA/RICA retains the identical arrangement and numbering as the editions currently in use. Regarding the translations, the English follows the principles of *Liturgiam authenticam*, while the Spanish generally retains the text from the 1990 U.S. edition, drawing from the original 1976 translation approved for Spain, but with errors and other inconsistencies now corrected.

Responding to over thirty years of the current edition’s use and feedback from clergy and pastoral ministers, some terminology has been refined in the revised edition. In the 1988 edition, the Latin word *candidatus* was uniformly translated as “candidate” and referred in the broadest sense to different persons undergoing different steps in the Initiation process or preparing to receive a sacrament. To reduce confusion and correspond better with pastoral practice, the revised edition now reserves the term “candidate” solely for already baptized persons preparing to receive Confirmation and the Eucharist. In other instances, *candidatus* is translated using terms more suited to the actual status of persons during the Initiation process, such as “inquirer,” “catechumen,” or “elect.”

Jubilee Year 2025

2024 - Year of Prayer, in preparation for Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be marked as a Year of Prayer. The Holy Father announced its launch on Sunday 21 January 2024, on the fifth annual celebration of the 'Sunday of the Word of God'. Previously, in a letter written on 11 February 2022, addressed to the Pro-prefect, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, to entrust the organization of the Jubilee to the Dicastery for Evangelization, the Pope wrote: "From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great 'symphony' of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him." In preparation for the Jubilee, therefore, individual dioceses are invited to promote the centrality of individual and community prayer during this year.

Please find the first resource in English at:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/verso-il-giubileo/2024-anno-della-preghiera.html>

Missal Additions

Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Peter Cathedral - May 17

This day is ranked as a feast in all places of the Diocese of Erie outside of the Cathedral. It is observed as a solemnity in the Cathedral. The Mass includes the singing of the Gloria. The scripture readings come from the Common of the Dedication of a Church. There is a proper Preface; the Divine Office is from the Common of the Dedication of a Church.

Mary, Mother of the Church

On February 11, 2018, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed a new obligatory Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, into the General Roman Calendar. This memorial is celebrated every year on the Monday after Pentecost. This year the date of this celebration is Monday, May 20.

For Mass, use the Prayers for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church which is found in the Roman Missal under Votive Masses: #10. Blessed Virgin Mary, B. Our Lady, Mother of the Church (page 1191 in the Catholic Book publication).

Proper readings with options are assigned for the day as follows:

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 (The mother of all the living)

or

Acts 1:12-14 (All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 87: 1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7. Glorious things are told of you, O City of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord...

Gospel:

John 19:25-34 Behold, your Son. Behold your mother.

Saint Paul VI

On January 25, 2019, Pope Francis ordered the inscription of Saint Paul VI, Pope, into the General Roman Calendar. St. Paul VI is celebrated each year as an Optional Memorial on May 29.

Collect

O God, who entrusted the governance of your Church
to Pope Saint Paul the Sixth,
a steadfast apostle of the Gospel of your Son,
grant, we pray, that enlightened by his teachings,
we may work together with you
to spread the culture of love throughout the world.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Invite One Back

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/invite-one-back>

Envisioned as an initiative for the Easter season, the Invite One Back resources are designed to help parish leaders reach out to parishioners who have not returned to Mass since the pandemic.

Masses for the Neophytes and a Pentecost Celebration During Easter Time

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* provides helpful guidance for the pastoral care of the newly baptized adults at Easter:

247 Since the distinctive spirit and power of the period of postbaptismal catechesis or mystagogy derive from the new, personal experience of the sacraments and of the community, its main setting is the so-called Masses for neophytes, that is, the Sunday Masses of the Easter season. Besides being occasions for the newly baptized to gather with the community and share in the mysteries, these celebrations include particularly suitable readings from the Lectionary, especially the readings for Year A. Even when Christian initiation has been celebrated outside the usual times, the texts for these Sunday Masses of the Easter season may be used.

248 All the neophytes and their godparents should make an effort to take part in the Masses for the neophytes and the entire local community should be invited to participate with them. Special places in the congregation are to be reserved for the neophytes and their godparents.

The homily and, as circumstances suggest, the general intercessions should take into account the presence and needs of the neophytes.

249 To close the period of postbaptismal catechesis, some sort of celebration should be held at the end of the Easter season near Pentecost Sunday; festivities in keeping with local custom may accompany the occasion.

Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: For Peace

As we celebrate new life in Christ in this Easter Season, do not forget those who suffer the ravages of war. Bishop Persico encourages the continued use of the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #30 For the Preservation of Peace and Justice, #31 In Time of War or Civil Disturbance, and #32 For Refugees and Exiles during the season of Easter. While the priest has much latitude using these Mass texts during the Easter Season, it is asked that they not be used more than once a week and not on the days prohibited as follows:

- The Sundays of Easter
- The Days of the Easter Octave
- The Solemnity of the Annunciation, April 8
- The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, May 9
- The Feast of Saint Mark, April 25
- The Feast of Saints Philip and James, May 3
- The Feast of Saint Matthias, May 14
- The Feast of the Dedication of Saint Peter Cathedral, May 17

The vestment color is **violet**.

Proper Disposal of the Paschal Candle

Old paschal candles, as blessed objects (a sacramental,) must be appropriately disposed. This could involve burning the candle in a devotional manner (privately as opposed to publicly and liturgically) or even burying the candle in blessed ground. Candles are made to be burned, however, and it is better to find a way to either recycle or burn the wax.

Hymn for Jubilee 2025 Chosen

“Pilgrims of Hope,” the Jubilee 2025 hymn, chosen from among 270 hymns from 38 countries, prepared by Pierangelo Sequeri, set to music by Francesco Meneghello, intercepts the many themes of the Holy Year: creation, fraternity, God’s tenderness and hope.

The English translation, recording and music can be found at:

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html>

Colds and Flu

People feeling ill should avoid receiving Communion from the chalice. Priests are encouraged to use good pastoral common sense to calm the fears of the faithful during cold and flu season. An example of this might include reminding the faithful not to receive the Precious Blood if they are ill.

Workshops for Liturgical Ministers

If any parish or institution would like a workshop for liturgical ministers, especially Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion or lectors, please contact the Office for Divine Worship. If a parish or institution conducts its own workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, please remember to present candidates for this ministry to the Bishop when they are deemed prepared by the pastor or chaplain of said institution.

The following resource is available from the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein for the formation of parish liturgical ministers: <https://liturgy.teachable.com/p/instructions-for-liturgical-ministers>.

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The safest thing a church can do is only to use copyrighted materials when you have the express written permission of the copyright owner. This is generally accomplished by purchasing the appropriate license. For music or lyrics, the majority of parishes use OneLicense.net.

Please be advised that readings may not be printed in worship aids, bulletins, or shown on a screen for Liturgies without proper licensing from the USCCB. To license the readings, parishes can contact: Mary Elizabeth Sperry at msperry@usccb.org. If you need any other clarification, please call the Office for Divine Worship at 814-824-1271.

Time for Vigil and Anticipated Masses

The time for Vigil Masses and Anticipated Masses in the Diocese of Erie is no earlier than 4:00 pm. This applies to Holy Days of Obligation as well, including Christmas.