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# OFFICE OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

## DIOCESE OF ALBANY

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Volume 4, Issue 2

March/April 2002

### Chrism Mass

On March 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral, Bishop Hubbard will concelebrate the Chrism Mass with priests throughout the diocese. In this liturgy, Sacred Chrism, used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination to the Priesthood and the dedication of altars and churches is consecrated. The bishop also blesses the oil of the catechumens, used in the rites preparing a person for baptism and the oil of the sick used to offer comfort and strength to those who are ill.

To celebrate this liturgy, the priests of our diocese come together from its many geographic regions, bearing witness to their collegial ministry with our bishop. They also participate in the consecration of the Chrism “because they share in the sacred office of the bishop in building up, sanctifying and guiding the people of God” - (CB 274.) During the Chrism Mass they also renew their commitment to the priesthood, professing anew their desire to be more closely united to Christ, to celebrate the eucharist and other sacraments with sincere devotion and, in imitation of Christ, to shepherd his people. The Bishop also asks the people who have assembled to commit themselves to pray for the priests and himself that they may be faithful ministers and “signs of Christ’s loving presence.”

In recognition of the teaching of the second Vatican Council in regards to the priestly responsibilities inherent in the grace of baptism, all the baptized are likewise called upon to renew their commitment to service in accordance with their gifts. St. Paul, in the letter to the Romans, suggests a partial list: prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, almsgiving, prudent use of authority and works of mercy.

Deacons are also called to renew their commitment to the unique forms of ministry they fulfill through works of charity and service and leadership in the liturgical assembly.

Those who plan to attend this liturgy should note that seats are reserved *only* for the ministers of the liturgy: priests, deacons and their wives, lectors, oil and gift bearers, and for those with disabilities, including hearing impairment. In years past, it has been misunderstood that

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attendance at this liturgy is a diocesan requirement for Confirmation preparation. There is no such requirement.

Finally, because parking can be difficult we suggest that attendees call the Office of Prayer and Worship (518) 453-6645 or the Cathedral (518) 463-4447 for suggestions for convenient locations.

### Concerning the Word

The liturgy formation day, developed and presented by the sub-committees of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, will be offered one more time. This will take place on April 27 at St. Mary’s Church in Gloversville.

The program, held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., consists of Morning Prayer, a keynote presentation on the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, and workshops on prayer, liturgy, art and environment, music and the RCIA. To receive further information or to register for the formation day, please call the Office of Prayer and Worship at (518) 453-6645.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mar. 20** (10 a.m.) *Church of Christ the King – Taping of the Televised Easter Mass with Bishop Hubbard presiding*

**Mar. 25** (7 p.m.) *Chrism Mass @ Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception*

**Apr. 4 & 11** (7–9 p.m.) *Sun. Celeb. in the Absence of a Priest Trn’g Session @ St. William’s, Troy*

**Apr. 7** (2:30 p.m.) *Diocesan Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Howard Hubbard’s ordination as Bishop of Albany*

**Apr. 24 & May 1** (7-9 p.m.) *Sun. Celeb. in the Absence of a Priest Trn’g Session @ St. John the Baptist, Greenville*

**Apr. 27** (9 a.m. – 2 p. m.) *Concerning the Word @ St. Mary’s, Amsterdam*

**May 13-16** *Spring Enrichment at the College of St. Rose with a variety of offerings on liturgy and related topics.*

***From the Bishop's Committee on the Liturgy  
Newsletter, vol. XXXVII, December 2001***

### **Complimentary Legislation on Preaching by Lay Persons**

*On December 13, 2001, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, signed a decree which will take effect in all the dioceses of the Latin Church in the United States of America on January 15, 2002. By this decree, Bishop Gregory promulgated complimentary legislation for canon 766 of the Code of Canon Law for all the dioceses of the Latin Church of the United States as approved by the USCCB on November 14, 2001, and subsequently confirmed on November 27, 2001 by the Congregation for Bishops in accord with article 82 of the Apostolic Constitution, **Pastor Bonus**. The text of the new particular law for the dioceses of the United States of America follows.*

Preaching the Word of God is among the principal duties of those who have received the sacrament of orders (cc.762-764). The lay faithful can be called to cooperate in the exercise of the Ministry of the Word (c. 759). In accord with canon 766 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops hereby decrees that the lay faithful may be permitted to exercise this ministry in churches and oratories, with due regard for the following provisions:

If necessity requires it in certain circumstances or it seems useful in particular cases, the diocesan bishop can admit lay faithful to preach, to offer spiritual conferences or give instructions in churches, oratories or other sacred places within his diocese, when he judges it to be to the spiritual advantage of the faithful.

In order to assist the diocesan bishop in making an appropriate pastoral decision (Interdicasterial Instruction, *Ecclesiae de Mysterio*, Article 2§3), the following circumstances and cases are illustrative: the absence or shortage of clergy, particular language requirements, or the demonstrated expertise or experience of the lay faithful concerned.

The lay faithful who are admitted to preach in a church or oratory must be orthodox in faith and well qualified both by the witness of their lives as Christians and by a preparation for preaching appropriate to the circumstances.

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The diocesan bishop will determine the appropriate situations in accord with canon 772§1; cfr. Pontifical Commission for the Authentic Interpretation of the Code of Canon Law, 26 May 1987, in *Acta Apostolic Sedis* (AAA) 79 [1987], 1249). Preaching by the lay faithful may not take place within the Celebration of the Eucharist at the moment reserved for the homily.

### **Holy Thursday Foot Washing**

During the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the sacramentary calls for the ritual washing of feet to follow the homily. John's Gospel (13:1-15) depicts Jesus washing his disciple's feet as a sign of the new commandment that the faithful should love one another.

During the earlier centuries of the Church's history, it followed the Lord's example in its liturgies but eventually, the practice fell into disuse until it was reinstated in 1955 by Pope Pius XII.

"In Biblical times it was prescribed that the host of the banquet was to provide water so guests could wash their hands [before eating]. Although a host might also provide water for travelers to wash their own feet before entering a house, the host would not wash guests' feet. According to the *Talmud* the washing of feet was forbidden to any Jew except those in slavery." (BLC Newsletter, vol. XXIII, February) This historical perspective indicates how significant Jesus' action must have been to the disciples and the role to which we are called today.

Some communities have adopted the custom of hand washing. This would seem to be an inappropriate choice because it follows the action of Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:24). According to the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, the "principle and tradition of the Holy Thursday mandatum...is the biblical injunction of Christian charity." Additionally, the Bishops' Committee states, any member of the community may participate in this rite, even though the rubric uses the gender specific "men".

## **Religious or Spiritual? Twelve Step Treatment and Recovery**

The Faith and Society Project at Sage College in Albany will present a program on April 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. exploring aspects of the Twelve Step addiction recovery programs.

Many prisoners and drunk drivers are mandated to Twelve Step style meetings or treatment programs. The Twelve Steps are a spiritual program of recovery developed by Alcoholics Anonymous and used in most treatments for addictions. Though AA members and many treatment professionals insist the Twelve Steps are spiritual, and not religious, others disagree. In a string of cases, judges in New York and elsewhere have ruled that it is unconstitutional to sentence offenders to Twelve Step style programs since these were religious in nature. The decisions could affect the nation's entire system of drug and alcohol treatment as well as public funding of faith-based services.

Program speakers include Robert Isseke, an attorney who has won cases arguing against mandated Twelve Step treatments, Barbara Gaige, Trustee for Next Step Inc., Recovery Home for Women, and Judge Stephen Herrick, former drug court administrator. For further information please contact Chris Ringwald at 292-1727 or [ringwald@capital.net](mailto:ringwald@capital.net). Registration is required. The participation fee is \$25.00

## **Congratulations Malcolm!**

World Library Publications will be publishing two piano books of arrangements of hymn tunes, an accompanying CD and a book of bulletin notices for choir directors authored by Malcolm Kogut, a member of the Music Sub-Committee of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Malcolm has already published three piano books, a psalm book and an octavo arrangement of "Spirit of the Living God" through GIA.

### *The Bell Tower...*

#### *Do you have available to donate?*

1. Stations of the Cross for St. Mary's Hospital Woodland Village Chapel. Please call Kathie Sousa, (518) 268-5209.
2. *Gather* hymnals to be used for Journey Youth Retreats. Please call Malcolm Kogut, (518) 674-2075.

## **Help Wanted**

The Environment and Art Sub-Committee is in need of assistance. This committee offers workshops on the liturgical environment, prepares the environment for the *Table of the Lord*, the diocesan televised Mass and diocesan liturgical events. If you would like to volunteer or recommend someone as a possible member, please call the Office of Prayer and Worship (518) 453-6645.

## **Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions Opening**

Rev. Michael Spillane has announced that he will retire at the end of December 2002. Therefore we have been asked to post this announcement:

### *Executive Director*

*The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), a national, Catholic nonprofit organization located in northeast Washington, DC, is seeking an executive director. Responsibilities include attending to the administration of the FDLC national office in Washington, DC, preparation and oversight of the annual FDLC budget, tracking membership and dues, overseeing external and internal publications, editing/publishing the FDLC newsletter, collaborating with the USCCB and BCL, maintaining communications with other national organizations, organizing national meetings and workshops, networking with the Board of Directors and diocesan worship directors. Candidates should have the following qualifications: practicing Catholic, strong administrative and managerial skills, very good communication and contract negotiation skills, computer literacy, liturgical knowledge and the ability to travel. Salary and benefits negotiable. Equal opportunity employer. Send resume to Joan Turel, Diocese of Scranton, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pa. 18503. Email to: [Joan.Turel@AOL.com](mailto:Joan.Turel@AOL.com).*

## **Welcome New Commission Members**

In January Bishop Hubbard appointed two new members to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Rev. Jerry Gingras has accepted the position as Commission Chair. He is also the pastor of the Church of St. Mary, Clinton Heights. Rev. Gary Gelfenbein has accepted the position of chair for the Environment and Art sub-committee. He also serves as pastor of St. James Church in Chatham and has been a member of the sub-committee for three years. Their pastoral experience, ecclesiological vision, and liturgical perspective will be a welcome addition to the developing ministry of the Commission.

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**DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION:**

**CHAIRPERSON**  
*Rev. Jerome R. Gingras*

**COMMISSION MEMBERS**  
INITIATION (RCLA) – *Mrs. Linda Faduski*  
ENVIRONMENT AND ART – *Rev. Gary P. Gelfenbein*  
LITURGY – *Rev. David W. Mickiewicz*  
MUSIC – *Mrs. Marie Bernadett*  
PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY – *Mrs. Patricia Mousaw*