



# Prairie Praise

A newsletter from the  
Office of Worship  
Diocese of New Ulm  
Fall / Winter 2009-2010

## First-ever Catholic All-State Honor Choir Nominations Sought

The Minnesota Catholic Education Association (MCEA) is putting together the first-ever **Catholic All-State Honor Choirs** which will convene on **August 23, 2010 in Duluth** in conjunction with the MCEA Convention: *We Are People of HOPE!*

The goals for students who participate in the Catholic All-State Honor Choirs are to:

- Experience choral singing with students from other Catholic communities from across the state of Minnesota.
- Allow students to work with noted conductors.
- Offer students the best of the sacred and liturgical music tradition and help them understand the meaning and purpose of the music used in liturgy.
- Help students improve and learn new musical skills.
- Energize students and help them grow as leaders so they can bring that energy and leadership back to their congregations and schools.



High-quality repertoire will fully explore the spiritual, emotional, and musical aspects of the music. This is a one day experience including rehearsals, a liturgy, and a concert for the MCEA participants and families.

Dr. Axel Theimer, professor of music at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict and a world-renowned conductor, will be conducting a high school mixed choir. Teri Larson, the director of music at the Basilica of St. Mary's in Minneapolis and a director of numerous honor choirs, will be conducting a girls' 5-8 choir. Dr. Patrick O'Shea, professor of music at St. Mary's University and a noted composer, will be conducting a boys' 5-8 choir.

It would be great if we could send a few young people from our diocese to this event! Parish liturgy contacts have been mailed a letter regarding this. Students in grades 5-12 are nominated by their music teacher or choir director in January, 2010. Confirmed nominations and letters of congratulations sent in early March. For more information, contact Ann Przybilla at 507-233-5320 ([aprzybilla@dnu.org](mailto:aprzybilla@dnu.org)) or visit the website [www.mncatholiced.org](http://www.mncatholiced.org).

# Vatican Directive on Using the Name of God

On August 8, 2008, the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship announced a new directive from the Vatican regarding the use of the name of God in the sacred liturgy. Specifically, the word "Yahweh" may no longer be "used or pronounced" in songs and prayers during liturgical celebrations. The decision was based on long-standing Jewish and Christian traditions of not pronouncing the divine name wherever it occurs in the biblical text. You may notice some small changes to several songs that are sung during Mass as a result of this directive, such as *Sing a New Song* and *You are Near*. For more information, please visit: [www.ocp.org/directive08](http://www.ocp.org/directive08).

## Wedding Liturgy Preparation

Help is available for those assisting couples in preparing a worship aid/program for the wedding liturgy. CatholicBrides.com is an online resource that will guide couples step by step in creating beautiful and professional worship aids/programs. They can range from a very simple program, to a complete worship aid which includes prayers, readings, and music for the assembly. Go to [www.catholicbrides.com](http://www.catholicbrides.com) for more information. The Office of Worship has a sampling of the programs that the company has done. If you wish to review the materials, call 507-359-2966 or email [aprybilla@dnu.org](mailto:aprybilla@dnu.org)

## Online Classes on Liturgy, Sacraments

**The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)** is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere via the internet. The goal is to support the church's professional ministry of religious education and faith formation in cyberspace. The next cycle of courses begins January 10, 2010. Registration is open until January 6, 2010 for this cycle. Classes with a liturgical focus that are offered in this cycle include: **Introduction to Liturgy** and **Sacraments**. These online courses run from January 10-February 13, 2010 and are very inexpensive. Contact Bryan Reising at 507-359-2966 for more information regarding the Diocese of New Ulm and VLCFF partnership.



# Gift Giving Made Simple...and Liturgical

Books make great appreciation gifts! Here are some of the top picks:



For families...*A Book of Feasts and Seasons* by Joanna Bogle

This book recaptures the lost traditions surrounding our major feasts and festivals. The author has added a wealth of new celebrations, stories, activities, and recipes and the book has been printed in a larger format to increase ease of use in the home, church, and school, while illustrations enhance the text. \$12.95

For liturgical ministers...*Liturgical Ministry Series*: A series of small books for Sacristans, Extraordinary Ministers, Hospitality, Lectors, Servers, Cantors, and Liturgy Committees. Up to date with current church guidelines. Price varies from \$5.95-7.95

For Priests and Deacons...*Fresh Light: Homilies on the Gospels of Year C*: This is a book of short homilies on the Gospels for the Sundays and celebrations of Year C. The homilies concentrate on the core message of the Gospel and are catechetical in approach. They make a wonderful companion and guide for those who prepare the homilies as well as those who want further reflection on what they hear at Mass. \$16.00

For children...*Sunday Morning* by Gail Ramshaw. The words and phrases used in Sunday liturgy are presented in people-centered art swirling with detail. Multicultural illustrations paint stories of God's love for all people, which we hear in the liturgy of the word. Use this with pre-school or day-care classes, first communion and children's Bible classes. You'll discover it will open hundreds of ways to talk about and explain Sunday worship. \$9.00

*We Learn About Mass* by Gerard Moore: This cost-effective resource is for use with second, third, fourth, and fifth graders preparing for their first Holy Communion or Christian initiation. The perfect supplement to any diocesan approved religious education text book, it is also a helpful resource for parents looking for ways to discuss and guide their child through the liturgy. \$3.50

For adults...*At Home With the Word* by Margaret Nutting Ralph, Daniel Scholz, John Imler, Maria Leonard, Mary Caswell Walsh: Your guide to a deeper understanding of all the Sunday readings for the liturgical year. This year's annual provides you with all the Sunday readings for Year C, offers insights into the readings from pastoral ministers, and suggests ways to practice the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. \$8.00

**These items and many others available from Liturgical Training Publications (LTP) can be purchased through the Office of Worship to receive a 30% discount! Contact Kathy Huebert to order at 507-359- 2966, ext. 304 or at [khuebert@dnu.org](mailto:khuebert@dnu.org).**

**SAVE THE DATE:** The dates are set for **AUGUST 6-7, 2010** at the Church of St. Catherine's in Redwood Falls, MN for a workshop titled *Concerning the Baptized*. Gael Gensler, OSF and Fr. Michael Clay will present on topics regarding the rural initiation and catechesis of those already baptized but in need of further sacraments. Brochures are coming soon!

## Update on the Roman Missal, third edition

We are getting much closer to a completed translation of the Roman Missal. The Bishops of the United States have completed the last parts of the Missal at their November 2009 meeting. The expected date of implementation in the parishes is sometime in 2011.

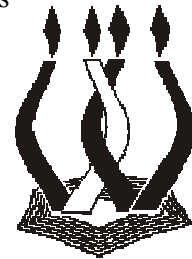
Rome has already given the approval of one section of the Roman Missal, the Order of Mass I, which includes the set texts of the Mass. Although the Order of Mass I has received the *recognitio*, dioceses and parishes are asked not to implement any changes this time. It would be a mistake to move ahead 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 of a new Sacramentary.

While the Mass that we have become accustomed to will not change, the words we hear will be different. This Roman Missal is a translation from the Latin text. It offers a more formal style than what we use in conversation. The words of the Mass often refer to passages from the bible. The new translation will reflect more of this.

Fr. Paul Turner has developed a series of pamphlets regarding the changes. They are available through the Office of Worship. They come in packets of 25 for just \$3.00. These series of eight brochures would make a good enrichment tool for liturgy committees.

## A Reflection on the Season

The Christmas festival celebrates all that the Church believes about Jesus Christ; he is the Son of God, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, and through him comes our salvation. So while the feast celebrates the birth of the Messiah, it is the mystery of the incarnation and its implications for today that are primary. When the "Word became flesh" an irrevocable bond between God and all people which was promised to us was fulfilled; it is active today and we look forward to the Lord's return in glory. The yearly keeping of Christmas leads us to Easter: "...may we celebrate this Eucharist with greater joy than ever since it marks the beginning of our redemption" (Vigil Mass of Christmas). The scope of this festival is wide and profound; we should do all we can to keep it from deteriorating into a "birthday" party for the baby Jesus.



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