Implementation Date for Order of Celebrating Matrimony Set for December 30, 2016; Optional Use Date is September 8

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, USCCB President, has issued a decree formally publishing the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Second Edition, following the completion of the Secretariat of Divine Worship’s standard review process. The new Matrimony rite may be used in the liturgy as of September 8, 2016, and its use is mandatory in the United States beginning on December 30, the Feast of the Holy Family.

Several publishers have expressed interest in producing this liturgical book. The USCCB decree of publication is given below for the benefit of our readers:

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
DECREED OF PUBLICATION

In accord with the norms established by decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Cum, nostra ætate (January 27, 1966) and of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Liturgiam authenticam (March 28, 2001), this edition of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony is declared to be the vernacular typical edition of the Ordo Celebrandi Matrimonium, editio typica altera, and is published by authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony was canonically approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on November 12, 2013, and was subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on June 29, 2015 (Prot. n. 84/14).

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony may be used in the Liturgy as of September 8, 2016, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and its use is obligatory as of December 30, 2016, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. From that date forward, no other English edition of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony may be used in the dioceses of the United States of America.

Given at the General Secretariat of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC, on February 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Joseph E. Kurtz
Archbishop of Louisville
President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
USCCB-FDLC Workshops for the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Second Edition

Following the promulgation of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Second Edition*, staff members of the Secretariat of Divine Worship are collaborating with the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) to offer catechetical and other formation on the revised rite. 30 workshops have been strategically scheduled in regions across the country between April and August 2016, and the FDLC has prepared materials for liturgical catechesis. The workshops are intended for priests, deacons, parish musicians, and diocesan leaders who actively prepare couples for marriage and for the celebration of Matrimony.

Each day-long workshop will combine the best of liturgical theology and pastoral practice, and provide much time for questions and answers. Topics covered include:

1) What’s new in the second edition? What has stayed the same?
2) The theology of Marriage
3) Duties and ministries
4) Pastoral preparation of engaged couples
5) Elements of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass
6) Elements of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass
7) Elements of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and catechumen or a non-Christian
8) Principles of preparing the wedding liturgy
9) Music for the wedding liturgy

The cost of attending a workshop is $55, and online registration will be available after March 11, 2016 at [www.FDLC.org/marriage-rite-workshops](http://www.FDLC.org/marriage-rite-workshops). Presented below are the dates and cities for the workshops; detailed location information is available from the FDLC website:

- April 26 – Oklahoma City
- April 29-30 – Baton Rouge
- May 6 – Kansas City, KS
- May 13-14 – Louisville
- May 13-14 – Pittsburgh area
- May 16-17 – Weston, MA
- May 20-21 – Detroit
- May 27-28 – Kirkland, WA
- June 3-4 – Denver
- June 6-7 – Piscataway, NJ
- June 10-11 – Houston
- June 17-18 – Hoffman Estates, IL
- June 23 – Bayshore, NY
- June 24 – San Francisco
- June 25 – Camarillo, CA
- June 27 – Orange County, CA
- June 29 – Los Angeles
- July 7 – Rochester, MN
- August 2 – Winter Park, FL
- Date To Be Determined – Baltimore

As with the revision of any liturgical text, the implementation of the new *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* presents an invaluable opportunity for clergy, catechists, and even couples anticipating marriage to revisit the rites with an eye towards review and renewal of praxis. This in turn can engender a deeper understanding of the liturgy and how it can best form the sacramental basis for enduring marriages.
Carmen F. Aguinaco Appointed as Secretariat Multicultural Specialist

The Secretariat of Divine Worship welcomes Ms. Carmen Fernandez Aguinaco as its new Multicultural Specialist, specializing in Spanish-language liturgy. She comes to the USCCB from Chicago with a considerable background in liturgical and catechetical publications reflecting a wide-ranging expertise on Hispanic ministry and culture. With 30 years of experience as an author, editor, teacher, and translator, Aguinaco recently retired as director of the Hispanic Ministry resource center of Claretian Publications, where she created the Hispanic Resource Center and was involved with the authoring and production of numerous publications.

As an adjunct faculty member to the Instituto de Liderazgo Hispano of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Aguinaco has recently taught courses in spirituality, missiology, and pastoral theology for lay ministry formation programs. During her years of service in Chicago, she has also provided considerable support for various organizations and dioceses by providing both publishing, editing, and translating assistance, as well as workshops and numerous presentations in the Archdiocese of Chicago and beyond. She is already familiar with the work of the USCCB, having served previously as a consultant to the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish.

Beginning February 29, 2016, Aguinaco will take up her duties, which also include serving as staff liaison to the Subcommittee. With the anticipation of the Holy See’s confirmation of the Misal Romano, Tercera Edición for the United States, and in light of the growing pastoral need for liturgical texts and other resources in Spanish, her experience and expertise should prove invaluable to the Secretariat’s ongoing support of the USCCB.

Use of Texts from the Order of Confirmation in Other Liturgical Rituals

Following the recent publication of the new English translation of the Order of Confirmation, the Secretariat of Divine Worship has received a number of questions regarding the celebration of Confirmation in the context of the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and other liturgical rituals.

In a similar way, the Committee on Divine Worship addressed in the November-December 2011 Newsletter the question of ways the implementation of the then-newly released Roman Missal, Third Edition might affect the use of other liturgical books that had not yet been retranslated. Many texts of the Sacred Liturgy are found in multiple books, and that could put liturgical ministers in an awkward situation during this period in which the rites are gradually being retranslated, since in a number of instances there are now two distinct translations of certain texts that exist side-by-side in approved liturgical books.

The general principle to be followed in an interim period such as this is that an approved liturgical book may continue to be used, even if some parts of its text have been retranslated in another book, until such time as a new version of the book is approved. In certain situations, however, particularly when it helps to avoid confusion, it is advisable to substitute the newer translation of the text for the older version, particularly since the newer English translation would have been rendered in the light of the 2001 instruction Liturgiam authenticam and would therefore provide a text that is closer to the original Latin.

After consulting with the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Committee thus counseled in 2011 that certain substitutions in the older liturgical books would be highly advisable, in light of the familiarity that the faithful would have with the texts of the Missal. The most commonly used of these would be the response “And with your spirit” and the texts of dismissal. These
substitutions would be easy to make in most circumstances, without even the need to put notes or reminders into the older books.

The Committee further suggested that certain other substitutions could also be made, but noted that these adaptations were optional and not required. For example, there are many instances in which the concluding prayer at various hours of the Liturgy of the Hours coincides with the Collect at that day’s Mass. A person who recites the Liturgy of the Hours privately or who leads this prayer in common is free to use the new translation of the prayer if so desired, but would equally be free to continue using the older version printed in the breviary.

A new context for this issue presents itself with the publication of the new English translation of the Order of Confirmation, that is, the administration of Confirmation in other pastoral circumstances. Both the RCIA and Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum include rituals for the administration of Confirmation in circumstances that would often involve the ministry of a priest, rather than a bishop, in the context of parish or other celebrations.

Aside from the response “And with your spirit” following the anointing with Chrism, the text from the Order of Confirmation that most lends itself to substitution into the older books is the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, whose new translation includes the traditional names for the gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit,
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.

This prayer is found in four locations in the U.S. edition of the RCIA: initiation of catechumens (no. 234), initiation of children of catechetical age (no. 325), reception of baptized Christians into full communion with the Catholic Church (no. 493, and referenced at no. 502), and the combined rite of initiation of catechumens and reception of baptized Christians (no. 590). The prayer at the Laying On of Hands is likewise found in Pastoral Care of the Sick in the ritual for “Christian Initiation of the Dying,” at no. 290, and is also referenced at no. 246 in the “Continuous Rite of Penance, Anointing, and Viaticum.”

In all of these locations, it would not only be permissible to use the prayer’s newer translation, but even encouraged in light of its coming into regular use by bishops at their own celebrations of Confirmation. Immediately before the prayer at the Laying On of Hands, however, the prefatory exhortation has a text that varies from location to location in the RCIA, none of which are identical to the version in the Order of Confirmation. Therefore, those exhortations need to retain their current translations found in the RCIA.

As long as these kinds of substitutions are being done on an individual basis by those using the ritual books, there are no major copyright issues involved. Diocesan offices of worship would be free to distribute the newer translations of specific texts, such as the prayer at the Laying On of Hands at Confirmation, to its priests and deacons. In the case of printed publications that are being sold, permission would first have to be secured from the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, and copyright fees might be required.