



NewsLetter

COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP

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Most Rev. David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh
Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
Most Rev. Mark J. Seitz
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Archbishop Wilton Gregory Assumes Committee Chairmanship; Rev. Andrew Menke to Become 11th Secretariat Executive Director

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta began his Chairmanship of the Committee on Divine Worship at the conclusion of the November 2016 USCCB plenary meeting. He becomes the twenty-first Chairman in the Committee's history; Gregory also served as the twelfth Chairman from 1990-1993.

In his first act of business, Archbishop Gregory appointed five new members of the Committee to join two continuing members, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo and Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso:

- Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh
- Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington
- Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Siegel of Joliet
- Auxiliary Bishop Andrzej J. Zglejszewski of Rockville Centre
- Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Garcia of Austin

Bishop Garcia was also named the new Chairman of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish. Concluding their service to the Committee are Justin F. Cardinal Rigali, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia, New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, Hartford Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, Belleville Bishop Edward K. Braxton, and Auxiliary Bishops Octavio Cisneros and Paul R. Sanchez of Brooklyn.

Abbot Jeremy Driscoll, OSB, of Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon was appointed by Archbishop Gregory as an additional consultant. He will join Abbot Primate Gregory J. Polan, OSB, Msgr. Kevin W. Irwin, Rev. Jan Michael Joncas, Rev. Thomas C. Ranzino, Rev. Juan J. Sosa, Sr. Janet Baxendale, SC, and Mrs. Rita A. Thiron, all of whom will continue to serve as Committee consultants.

Along with changes in the Committee, a time of transition is also taking place in the Secretariat of Divine Worship. Monsignor J. Brian Bransfield, USCCB General Secretary, announced in early October that Rev. Michael J. Flynn, Secretariat Executive Director since June 2014, would conclude his term of service at the end of this month. To succeed him effective January 1, 2017, Msgr. Bransfield appointed Rev. Andrew Menke, a priest of the Diocese of Lincoln and current Secretariat Associate Director since May 2015.

Fr. Menke holds a master's degree in divinity from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Following his ordination in 1999, he served in diocesan pastoral ministry for eleven years and completed a master's degree in education

administration at the University of Nebraska. Fr. Menke served as an official of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments from 2010 to 2015, and completed a licentiate in sacred liturgy at the *Sant'Anselmo* Pontifical Institute of Liturgy during that time.

The Committee members and Secretariat staff salute Fr. Flynn on his exemplary service at the USCCB and congratulate Fr. Menke on his appointment.

USCCB Approves Expanded Mass Formulary of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The Latin Church Bishops of the USCCB approved an expanded Mass formulary for the Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha during the November 2016 plenary meeting by a vote of 189-1. Following the beatification of then-Venerable Kateri in 1980, an obligatory memorial was established in the dioceses of the United States, including a proper Collect prayer for the *Roman Missal*. There has been continued devotion among the faithful to the first beatified Native American – later canonized in 2012 – and the Committee on Divine Worship sought to honor Saint Kateri by means of additional liturgical prayers.

At its November 2014 meeting, the Committee directed the Secretariat of Divine Worship to research the matter and, one year later, approved an English text of the expanded formulary. The Subcommittee on Divine Worship drafted a Spanish translation, which was approved by the Committee in June 2016. The expanded formulary consists of Entrance and Communion Antiphons drawn from the Common of Virgins and a newly-composed Prayer over the Offerings and Prayer after Communion. Minor textual adjustments were also made to the Collect.

The formulary will be sent to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for the requisite confirmation.

November 2016 Meeting of the Committee on Divine Worship

The Committee on Divine Worship met in Baltimore, Maryland on November 13, 2016. Following the presentation of reports from the Committee Chairman, Secretariat, Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish, Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, and *Instituto Nacional Hispano de Liturgia*, members devoted their attention to the development of several liturgical and other texts.

Members of the Committee reviewed proposed modifications to three “Green Book” translations prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL): *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*, *Order of Baptism of Children*, and the fourth fascicle in the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* project, focused on texts in the Ordinary and Psalter. The Secretariat also made a presentation to the Committee on the ongoing work of both ICEL and the USCCB to prepare the next edition of the Divine Office for the United States.

The Committee approved the text of a new Part VI (*sexta parte*) for the Spanish-language *Bendicional* that is expected to be voted on by the body of Bishops in June 2017. This section encompasses the proper blessings for the United States that appear in various chapters of the English-language *Book of Blessings*. Members also authorized the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of licensing some Spanish-language ritual books that could then be adapted for publication in the United States, especially as bilingual Spanish-English editions.

Finally, the Committee edited and approved the draft of a revised edition of the *Guidelines for Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities*. The first edition was approved by the body of Bishops in June 1995, and many medical and technological advancements, together with renewed emphasis on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, have necessitated the preparation of a new version, with assistance provided from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability as well as several USCCB offices. This text is expected to be voted on in June 2017 by the body of Bishops.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 13, 2017 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

September 2016 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish

Members and consultants of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish met at the USCCB headquarters in Washington, DC on September 13-14, 2016. Discussion and other work on future liturgical books comprised the bulk of the meeting.

As publication of the *Misal Romano, Tercera Edición* for use in the dioceses of the United States approaches, the Subcommittee was given a presentation by Rita Thiron, Executive Director of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, on the possibility of joint efforts to provide catechesis on the *Misal Romano* and the Mass in general, similar to efforts undertaken in 2010-2011 before the implementation of the *English Roman Missal, Third Edition*.

The Subcommittee devoted much time and attention to reviewing the future *sexta parte* (Part VI) of the Spanish-language *Bendicional*, which is composed of the majority of proper blessings for use in the United States. Textual corrections were made in preparation for submission to the Committee on Divine Worship for approval. The body of Bishops is expected to vote on the final translation in 2017.

Development of other ritual books was also discussed. Revision of the English *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* is underway, so members and consultants reviewed two existing base texts of the Spanish *Ritual de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos*. A concurrent revision of the Spanish text for the United States will ensure continued ease of pastoral use of these important rites. Consideration was also given to the future publication of bilingual ritual books, especially in cases where USCCB Communications may be the sole publisher. The recently published *Order of Confirmation/Ritual para la Confirmación* (USCCB Communications) and the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony/Ritual del Matrimonio* (Liturgical Press) have been successful, and two English texts awaiting confirmation by the Holy See – *Exorcisms and Related Supplications* and the *Order of Dedication of a Church and an Altar* – may present future opportunities to produce bilingual editions.

Finally, members and consultants gave their support to participation in the *V Encuentro Nacional de Pastoral Hispana* (Fifth National *Encuentro* for Hispanic/Latino Ministry) in 2018, dedicated to the topic “Missionary Disciples: Witnesses of God’s Love.” The Subcommittee will play a part in the development of the liturgy team for the *Encuentro*.

Subscription Renewals for 2017 Newsletter

Renewal forms for the 2017 *Newsletter* are being mailed to current subscribers in January. Subscribers are asked to return the completed renewal form with their payment by February 24, 2017 to ensure continuing service. Please note that the six-digit account number assigned to each subscription should be used for any inquiries regarding the subscription. Anyone who has not received a renewal notice by January 23 should contact David Ringwald at (202) 541-3060 or by e-mail at dringwald@usccb.org.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to the *Newsletter* (available in hard-copy or e-mailed in Word or PDF formats) may contact the Secretariat of Divine Worship at 3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017, ATTN: Newsletter Subscriptions. The cost of an individual subscription is \$15 per year. Back issues of the *Newsletter* from 2012 to 2016 are available at \$1 per issue. Special bulk order prices are available for orders of 20 copies or more.

The Spirituality and *Ars Celebrandi* of Saint Sharbel Makhlūf

Bishop A. Elias Zaidan, Eparch of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles for the Maronites, addressed the 2016 Conference of the Society for Catholic Liturgy on September 30, 2016, on the topic “The Liturgy and the Church Persecuted.” He discussed the history of Maronite Catholics, the current difficulties for Christians in the Middle East, and addressed various ways the Sacred Liturgy serves to strengthen those who suffer persecution.

After describing the special role that the Blessed Virgin Mary plays in the Maronite liturgy, Bishop Zaidan spoke of the important example of Saint Sharbel Makhlūf, a Maronite priest who died on Christmas Eve 1898. An excerpt from his presentation is reprinted here for the benefit of our readers:

The second example that illustrates how the Maronite Liturgy has helped sustain the faith of the Church persecuted is Saint Sharbel. Born in 1828 during a period of Turkish rule over Lebanon, his father died when he was three and he came to understand religious oppression himself. Early on, he was profoundly aware of the presence of God and devoted himself to his service. His pathway is not the normal pathway that many follow. In 1859 he was ordained a priest after entering the Maronite Lebanese Order and only a year later, found himself ministering to those fleeing from a severe persecution that ended up costing the lives of tens of thousands of Christians. He not only did penance for the atrocities committed, but he also prayed for both the persecuted and the persecutors. The love of Christ extends to our enemies and those who hate us – and this means nothing unless it truly costs. Father Sharbel was not afraid of the cost of this kind of love because he was profoundly aware and grateful for what Christ had already done for him.

In 1875, he was given permission to live out his vocation as a hermit in Annaya. At the same time, his love and his simplicity of heart won others over to him. They were drawn by his authenticity and his love for God.

His spirituality was one of profound adoration cultivated in long hours of solitude, fasting and vigilant silence before the presence of God in the Eucharist. He celebrated Mass contemplatively, reverently spending time in silent prayer each day to prepare for each liturgy as if it were his first Eucharist, his only, and his last.

During the Eucharistic celebration, he proceeded at a slow and deliberate pace, maintaining ample time for sacred silence throughout the Divine Liturgy. His reverence alone led many to conversion of life and a new dedication to the faith. He also had a profound love for others expressed through acts of kindness and hospitality, but more so through miracles in a limited number during his lifetime, but expanded greatly after his death.

His life was hidden and seemed to be of no account to the culturally and politically powerful of his time. He died on Christmas Eve during a snow storm only days after he was struck with paralysis while celebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy. However hidden his life was, soon after his death, tens of thousands sought his intercession. Miracle healings and conversions of life took place not only for Maronite Catholics, but for many other believers, including Muslims. These miracles continue to this day, with miraculous healings attributed to Saint Sharbel by Muslims even within the last few months. For many, the power of God through this saint’s holiness is tearing down the enmity that has so plagued the peoples of the Middle East, and this has caused many people to reconsider what the Church is proposing in the Gospel of Christ. Some describe St. Sharbel as a man, drunk from the goodness and presence of God. His life became a total gift to God.

Saint Sharbel has become a great model to the Maronite liturgical tradition. His example of reverence highlights the importance of the contemplative and mystical dimensions of our faith. Enriched by him, we have been blessed with a certain love for the Eucharist but also an awareness of the primacy of heaven over earthly affairs.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017

**from the Committee on Divine Worship
and the staff of the Secretariat of Divine Worship!**