



# Newsletter

Volume LXI  
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## Committee on Divine Worship

### Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Newsletter with a New Style

Sixty years ago, the Bishops' Commission on the Liturgical Apostolate issued its first *Newsletter*, "intended primarily for the Bishops of the United States and for their diocesan liturgical commissions" (September 1965). The Commission was founded in 1958 in response to the liturgical reforms initiated by Venerable Pope Pius XII, and, while the name of this episcopal body changed over the years – first the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy (1967-2007) and then the Committee on Divine Worship (2007-present) – its *Newsletter* has steadfastly served the Church in the United States in the reception, implementation, and celebration of the sacred liturgy reformed following the Second Vatican Council.

The look of the *Newsletter* has changed over the years (see an interesting spread in the August-September 2015 issue!) with its last major revision taking place in September 1997. The Committee celebrates this 60th anniversary by updating the publication's style in light of the USCCB's new Visual Identity Standards, approved in September 2024

and already applied to the 2026 and subsequent editions of the annual *Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America*.

As always, we are grateful to our many readers for their encouragement and support, as well as for the clergy, consecrated religious, and laity who have served the Committee on Divine Worship as members, consultants, or staff.

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*35 Years of the BCL Newsletter: 1965-2000* and *Ten Years of the Newsletter: 2011-2020* are each available from Liturgy Training Publications ([LTP.org](http://LTP.org)). A helpful summary of the early years of the Commission and Committee is provided by Msgr. Frederick R. McManus, first Executive Director of the Commission, in *Thirty Years of Liturgical Renewal*, available to borrow at the Internet Archive ([Archive.org](http://Archive.org)).

### Newsletter Subscription Price Increased to \$20.00, Beginning with 2026 Issues

The last increase in subscription rates for the *Newsletter* was announced twenty-two years ago. In this light and in view of ever-rising prices, individual subscriptions for 2026 will be: \$20 for all digital and domestic print subscriptions; and \$25 for international print subscriptions. Bulk rate print subscriptions, which are mailed in a single package to one address, will remain: 20-499 copies at \$5 per copy and 500+ copies at \$4 per copy. Bulk digital subscriptions are available at \$3.75 per copy.

Back issues from 2011 to the present are available in PDF format at the *Newsletter's* website below, and back issues for

2020-2025 in print are available from the Secretariat at \$1 per issue.

Renewal forms for the 2026 *Newsletter* will be mailed to current subscribers next spring. Those wishing to make changes to their account may request customer service through the online form found at [USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter](http://USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship/newsletter), or by contacting David Ringwald at [DWNewsletter@uscgb.org](mailto:DWNewsletter@uscgb.org) or at (202) 541-3060.

## September 2025 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish

The Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish met on September 9-10, 2025 at the USCCB headquarters in Washington, DC. This followed a virtual meeting held on June 30 to work on modifications to the future U.S. *Ritual de la Penitencia*.

Customary update reports were given by the Chairman and the Secretariat of Divine Worship. The Subcommittee devoted time to working on additional modifications to the *Ritual de la Penitencia*, followed by the members approving the front matter (decree and introduction) and rubrics of the book. A discussion then followed on the timeline and parameters of working on the ritual's prayer texts, a task which will occupy all of 2026.

On the meeting's second day, the Subcommittee reviewed and approved two Spanish liturgical translations: the recently promulgated Mass for the Care of Creation and the *Liturgia de las Horas* proper text for Saint Teresa of Calcutta. These texts will be presented for canonical vote sometime next year alongside the English translations. Finally, members and consultants discussed a proposal from the Conference of the Mexican Episcopate, inviting the USCCB to participate in a "Guadalupan Intercontinental Novena" as a preparatory period before the 500th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December 2031.

The next in-person meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for March 24, 2026.

## Ritual Editions of Anointing of the Sick to Be Released January 1, 2026



Five publishers are producing a total of eleven ritual editions of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care* and *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* for liturgical use in the United States. Seven of the books are in English, one is in Spanish, and three are bilingual editions. Three pocket size editions are softcover, while the others are hardcover.

Presales for all editions are currently underway, and books may be distributed and sold as of January 1, 2026. As a reminder, first-use of the new Anointing rite begins on February 11, 2026, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and annual World Day of the Sick, with mandatory use as of Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

Information on the available ritual editions is summarized for the benefit of our readers:

### Catholic Book Publishing Corp.

([CatholicBookPublishing.com](http://CatholicBookPublishing.com), 877-228-2665)

- English, regular size: 7¼" × 10¼", 240 pgs., \$34
- English, pocket size: 4" × 6¼", 336 pgs., \$25
- Bilingual, pocket size: 4" × 6¼", 656 pgs., \$29

### Liturgical Press

([LitPress.org](http://LitPress.org), 800-858-5450)

- English: 6" × 9", 304 pgs., \$59.95
- Spanish: 6" × 9", 288 pgs., \$59.95

### Liturgy Training Publications

([LTP.org](http://LTP.org), 800-933-1800)

- English: 5¼" × 8", 336 pgs., \$48
- Bilingual: 5¼" × 8", 672 pgs., \$68

### Magnificat

([bookstore.Magnificat.net](http://bookstore.Magnificat.net), 970-416-6670)

- English, regular size: 5" × 7¾", 280 pgs., \$29.95
- English, pocket size: 4¼" × 5½", 280 pgs., \$24.95

### Midwest Theological Forum

([TheologicalForum.org](http://TheologicalForum.org), 630-541-8519)

- English: 7.18" × 10¼", 206 pgs., \$49.95
- Bilingual: 7.18" × 10¼", 394 pgs., \$69.95

## Understanding the Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care: Preliminary Considerations

With the upcoming publication of the revised edition of the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*, the *Newsletter* begins a series exploring this ritual, in particular, what is new and which aspects are in need of renewal in pastoral practice over the last forty years. This first article explores the history of the current and new editions, along with significant changes represented throughout the entire edition.

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### History of the Current Editions

Pope Saint Paul VI decreed a new sacramental formula for the Anointing of the Sick on November 30, 1972, and one week later on December 7, the Holy See promulgated the *Ordo Unctionis infirmorum eorumque pastoralis curæ*, completing the reform of the rites for the sick and dying called for by the Second Vatican Council (cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, nos. 73-75). In 1974, a provisional English translation was published by the authority of the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, the *Rite of Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick*. This ritual's numbering was identical to that of the typical edition and included only minor editorial adjustments with no original material. In 1982, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) transmitted a definitive, revised translation to its member Conferences: *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*. In an accompanying Explanatory Note, ICEL noted that the text had been significantly expanded, rearranged, adapted, and renumbered in light of those competencies given in nos. 38-39 of the typical edition "so that it will more adequately meet pastoral requirements in concrete situations."<sup>1</sup> In that same year, ICEL's translation was approved by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by the Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship. Thus, *Pastoral Care of the Sick* became the mandatory version of the rite for use in the United States on November 27, 1983. Other ICEL member Conferences took similar steps and have been using the same arrangement of the book that is used in the United States.

In 1974, the Conference of the Mexican Episcopate (CEM, from its Spanish name) received the confirmation of its first Spanish edition, *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral*. Following the publication of *Pastoral Care of the Sick* in 1983, the then-Secretariat for the Liturgy

asked the Secretariat of the Mexican Episcopal Commission on Liturgical Pastoral Care to prepare a Spanish translation of the ICEL text. *Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos: Ritos de la Unción y del Viático* became available from the publisher Buena Prensa in 1984, becoming the definitive edition in the U.S.; several of its chapters were used in abridged, bilingual editions of *Pastoral Care of the Sick*, first published in 1986. In 1993, the CEM determined to make this version of the text available in the dioceses of Mexico.

### Revised English and Spanish Editions

From August to December 2019, the bishops of the U.S. participated in the draft Green Book consultation for the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*, and in April 2020, ICEL issued a definitive Gray Book translation. The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship began work on the text at its November 2021 meeting and approved a draft for the body of bishops the following June. The USCCB approved the ICEL Gray Book in November 2022, and the Holy See gave its *confirmatio* and *recognitio* on November 30, 2024, the 52nd anniversary of the Anointing sacramental formula.

Meanwhile in the late 2010s, the CEM determined that it was necessary to replace *Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos*, and in 2020 reissued the text approved in 1974. This text followed the numbering of the typical edition but included several rites of its current edition as appendices, e.g., visits to the sick, Christian Initiation in danger of death, and prayers after death. This 2020 text would serve as the base text for a new U.S. Spanish edition. Slight modifications were made to the Mexican text where it differs from previously approved U.S. Spanish liturgical books. Additional modifications were also required in light of the changes made following the promulgation of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which the Mexican text does not take into

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<sup>1</sup> Similar adaptations would be carried out for the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* and the *Order of Christian Funerals* in 1985.

account. In a few places, the Mexican text has been modified to bring it closer to the Latin and English versions.

## Arrangement

The new English and Spanish editions closely follow the arrangement of the typical edition. Nevertheless, those rites of the current edition that are absent from the typical edition or taken from other ritual books have been added as Appendices I-IV: Model Rites for the Visitation of the Sick; Shorter Order of Adult Initiation to Be Used in Near Danger of Death or at the Point of Death; Prayers after Death; and the Emergency Rite of Penance, Viaticum, and Anointing.

## Minister(s) of the Rites

The current edition of *Pastoral Care of the Sick* is a ritual book designed for use by a variety of ministers:

The words “priest,” “deacon,” and “minister” are used advisedly. Only in those rites which must be celebrated by a priest is the word “priest” used in the rubrics [...]. Whenever it is clear that, in the absence of a priest, a deacon may preside at a particular rite, the words “priest or deacon” are used in the rubrics. Whenever another minister is permitted to celebrate a rite in the absence of a priest or deacon, the word “minister” is used in the rubrics, even though in many cases the rite will be celebrated by a priest or deacon. (nos. 44, 162)

The Latin typical edition, however, is a ritual book for use by a priest (*sacerdos*). Throughout the new editions, the subject of the rites is “Priest,” not “celebrant” or “minister.” As provided in the editions, however, a deacon may celebrate the rites in Chapters I and III, and both deacons and lay persons may use Chapter VI and Appendices I-III; however, for Communion and Viaticum to the sick, lay persons must use *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery outside Mass* (cf. *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care*, no. 29).

## Presentation of Options

The numerous cross-references of the Latin edition generally fall into three categories: those that give other options for a text already included in the rite; those that direct the priest to an entire rite located elsewhere in the book; and those where a text is not given and direct the priest elsewhere. The current edition almost totally eliminates these cross-references, preferring to give options, rites, and texts wherever they may be used. In the new edition, cross-references are generally preserved, apart from the second category; where a single text is needed but not given, it has been provided. Options are found in Chapter VII, “Various Texts to Be Used in the Rites for the Sick,” and most editions contain a generous number of ribbons for use by priests and deacons.

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Roxana F. Hall  
Rev. David R. Price  
David K. Ringwald



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Committee on  
Divine Worship

3211 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017  
Web: [USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship](http://USCCB.org/committees/divine-worship)  
Phone: (202) 541-3060