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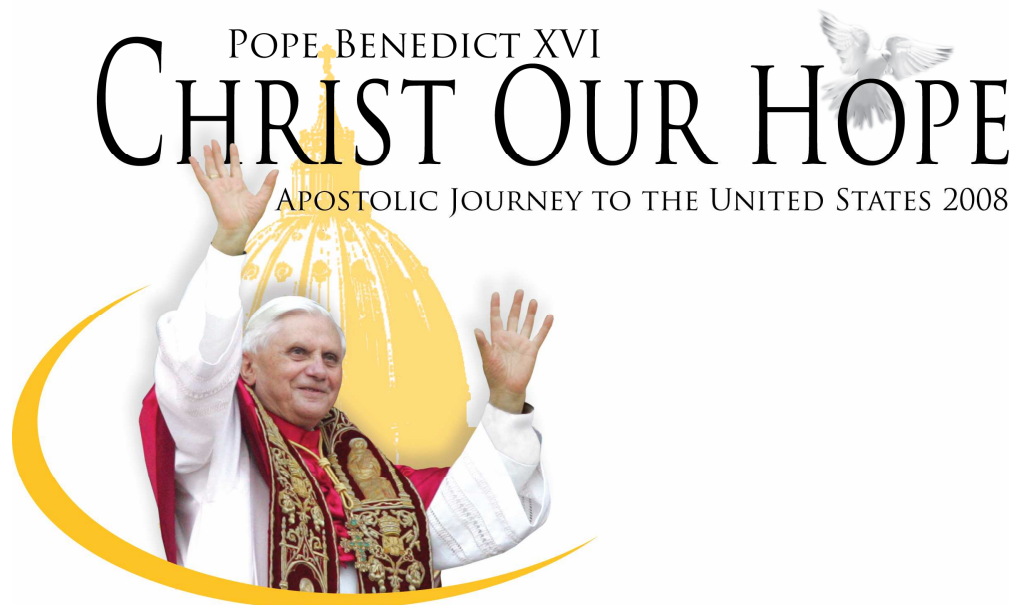
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**The Committee on Divine Worship
Welcomes Pope Benedict XVI
on his Pastoral Visit to the United States!**

From the Committee Chairman
Most Rev. Arthur J. Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson

We pray that the visit of the Holy Father will be of great spiritual benefit to all in the United States of America. The Pope as Bishop of Rome and Peter's Successor is the source and foundation of the unity of both the bishops and the whole company of the faithful.

This special edition of the *Newsletter* reviews some of the unique aspects of the papal liturgical celebrations. One of the aspects of preparation for the papal visit is the formulation of the papal Missal, and the article in this edition describes the process that produces this unique volume. Finally, we bring to the attention of our readers three important works that have to do with important moments in the life of the pope. May the papal visit truly enliven our hope in Christ Jesus!

Pope Benedict's Liturgical Celebrations in the United States

During his 6-day Pastoral Visit in the United States, Pope Benedict XVI will take part in eight liturgical celebrations. Two will be in Washington, DC, while the other six will occur in New York City. Here is a synopsis of the Holy Father's liturgical events:

Wednesday, April 16 – Washington, DC

The Holy Father's first liturgical celebration is Evening Prayer with the nation's Bishops at 5:30 PM in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. After greeting the staffs of the Archdiocese of Washington, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Basilica of the National Shrine in the Great Upper Church and taking a brief tour, His Holiness will go to the Crypt Church to pray with the Bishops. The proper texts of Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter will be used. Following Evening Prayer, Pope Benedict is to address the U.S. Bishops.

Thursday, April 17 – Washington, DC

At 10:00 AM, Pope Benedict will celebrate Mass in the newly-opened Nationals Park, home of Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals team. To reflect the theme of the Mass, "Make All New in Christ our Hope," the texts to be used are from the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit.

Friday, April 18 – Yorkville, NY

After giving an address at the United Nations in the morning, the Holy Father will participate in an Ecumenical Service at a parish on Manhattan's East Side, St. Joseph's Church, at 6:00 PM. Before the recessional, Edward Cardinal Egan will present a number of ecumenical leaders to the Holy Father.

Saturday, April 19 – New York, NY

The Holy Father will celebrate the third anniversary of his election to the Chair of Peter with a Votive Mass for the Universal Church at 9:15 AM at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in New York. He will be joined by the clergy and religious of various dioceses of the United States.

Two events will take place at the Archdiocese of New York's St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers: a brief meeting with young people having disabilities in the seminary's chapel, and a meeting with youth and seminarians on the grounds. During the rally, youth and seminarians will sing Happy Birthday to the Holy Father in German. Several young people will present to the Holy Father various gifts: a spiritual bouquet; a copy of a book used in Catholic schools throughout the state, entitled *Empire State Catholics: A History of the Catholic Community in New York State*; and images of six individuals who were born or served in New York and who have been declared saints, blessed, or venerable by the Church.

Sunday, April 20 – New York, NY

The Holy Father will make a brief trip in the morning to one of the sites of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001: the site of the former World Trade Center. While at "Ground Zero," Pope Benedict will greet a number of first responders, political officials, and members of victims' families. In addition to a few minutes of private prayer, he will light a candle beside a reflective pool of water (a custom at Ground Zero remembrances), make a public prayer for peace and healing, and bless the site with holy water, where construction is ongoing for the Freedom Tower and a Memorial to the victims lost at Ground Zero. The Holy Father's prayer embraces all who suffered death, injury, or loss on that sad day, including those at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Pope Benedict's final liturgical celebration will take place at 2:30 PM, with the celebration of Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Easter at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. This Mass will also commemorate a historic bicentennial for the Church in the United States. On April 8, 1808, Pope Pius VII raised America's first See, the Diocese of Baltimore, to the level of a Metropolitan Archdiocese, and erected its first four suffragan Sees: Boston, Bardstow (now Louisville), New York, and Philadelphia. To mark the occasion, the respective Archbishops – Edwin O'Brien of Baltimore, Seán Cardinal O'Malley of Boston, Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Edward Cardinal Egan of New York, and Justin Cardinal Rigali of Philadelphia – will be given special honorary seating at the celebration.

Developing a Papal Missal for the Apostolic Journey

Part of any Papal visit to a country is the development of a papal Missal. The process of reaching the final version of this book is a very challenging and exciting one.

First, an overall theme was agreed upon for the visit of the Holy Father. Based on the encyclical *Spe Salvi* of Pope Benedict XVI, issued on November 30, 2007, the theme chosen was *Christ our Hope*. With this as a starting point, the two host Archdioceses of Washington and New York began to look at the Pope's schedule to determine what the various liturgical celebrations would look like. Interest, support, encouragement, and direction were provided by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. The Archbishop of Washington, Donald Wuerl, and the Cardinal Archbishop of New York, Edward Egan, gave countless hours of personal attention to those responsible for liturgy in their Archdioceses as the celebrations were developed.

Each Archdiocese began to focus in on a particular aspect of the overall theme. At the Mass in Nationals Park, for example, focus is given to the theme *Make All New in Christ our Hope*. For the Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on April 19, the focus is *Saved By Hope*. Unique elements had to be taken into consideration, in addition, to elements such as reflecting the multiethnic and multicultural aspects of the country. The Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral is scheduled to coincide with the third anniversary of the Holy Father's election. The final Mass at Yankee Stadium embraces the commemoration of the Bicentennial celebrations of the Archdioceses of Baltimore, Boston, Louisville, New York, and Philadelphia.

The Secretariat of Divine Worship served as a conduit for communications with the Master of Papal Liturgical Ceremonies, Monsignor Guido Marini. He is assisted by two other masters: Monsignors William V. Millea and Konrad Krajewski. In early December 2007, Monsignor Anthony Sherman, the Secretariat's Executive Director, met with the Masters of Ceremony in Rome. This meeting was invaluable in that it answered many of the questions that had arisen in the early planning stages for the visit. It also laid the groundwork for the many future contacts that would have to be made to resolve issues.

As the various liturgies began to be prepared, texts were sent to Monsignor Marini for his review. Some initial observations and suggestions were made, but the real value was the material provided for the Masters' visitation in early February. The visitation enabled all who were now actively engaged in the preparations to see and understand what was required for each celebration that would be led by the Holy Father. Any questions or issues were addressed and resolved in a wonderful spirit of mutual cooperation, understanding and respect for each other. The one overriding desire was to do what was necessary to make the papal visit a successful one.

During the visitation, much time was spent in reviewing the papal Missal. Beginning with the abundant rubrics and background provided by the two Archdioceses, the Missal was then edited. It is a unique Missal in that it is very limited in the number of the rubrics provided. Frequently, one finds simply "The Holy Father:" as the rubric. The reason for this is that the main focus for the book is to provide the Holy Father with the text he alone needs for a particular celebration. Future liturgists will have to search further than the papal Missal itself to discover what form and shape the actual liturgies took. Indeed, the Papal Masters of Ceremony are relying on the more extensive material the Archdioceses provided to get the bigger picture of what is happening, especially when rehearsals take place before each papal liturgy. As the two Archdioceses prepare their participation aids for the liturgies, they will include all the necessary music and directions that might be required.

Shortly after the papal Missal went to print a few digital draft copies were produced. These copies were sent to Monsignor Marini so that he could make initial plans. It also provides the Holy Father with an initial text since the final printed copies of the Missal would not be available until early April. When the copies arrive, several special editions are sent to Monsignor Marini. Other editions are sent to Washington and New York. Finally, all the bishops will receive a copy of the Missal that can be used throughout the visit. Countless hours of work, hundreds of people, and the goodwill and prayerful cooperation of all helped to bring about the papal Missal. There was only one desire during the four-month process of drafting, revising, assembling, and approving the Missal: that this aspect of the papal visit would enable the Holy Father to proclaim *Christ our Hope*.

Important Ritual Texts Related to Papal Liturgies

In the last few years, ritual books concerning the death of the Roman Pontiff, the Papal Conclave, and the Election and Installation of the Roman Pontiff have appeared (in Latin and Italian). With the aid of global communications, people around the world are able to participate in these events and liturgical rites. What might at first appear to be of little immediate interest can actually be an important pastoral, catechetical, and even liturgical resource. The three new ritual books were issued by the Office of Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff. Two of them were approved by Pope John Paul II and the third by Pope Benedict XVI. All three contain a *Praenotanda* (an introduction) which explains the significance and development of the rites from both liturgical and pastoral aspects.

Issued in 2000, the first ritual book is entitled *Ordo Exequiarum Romani Pontificis*. The first three chapters correspond to the three “stations” of Christian burial. The first station occurs in the house of the deceased Pontiff. These rites certify the pope’s death and the laying out of his body. In addition, there are services for prayers to be used with small groups, including the Liturgy of the Hours and the recitation of the Rosary. The second station includes the services celebrated at St. Peter’s Basilica: the transfer of the body to the Basilica, various celebrations and prayers, as well as the Mass of Christian Burial. The final station presents the Rite of Committal, with directives for the procession of the pope’s body to the crypt and its entombment.

Chapter Four covers the *Novendiales* (or *Novendiales*). According to an ancient custom, nine consecutive days of special Eucharistic celebrations are held for the repose of the soul of the deceased Roman Pontiff, beginning with the funeral Mass, the date of which is determined by the General Congregation of Cardinals. The texts for those Masses are in this chapter. Finally, an appendix provides the Order of Mass, including Prefaces for the Dead and Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III with the appropriate references to the deceased pope. A collection of penitential Psalms, and some gradual Psalms and songs are also provided.

The second work to appear is the *Ordo Rituum Conclavis*, which also appeared in 2000. The *Praenotanda* treats the importance of the conclave, describes its various rites, and points out the relationship to Pope John Paul II’s Apostolic Constitution, *Universi dominici gregis*, on the election of the Roman Pontiff. Chapters One and Two deal with the Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff and the entrance into the conclave. Chapter Three, entitled *De Electione Romani Pontificis*, describes what is done at each voting session of the conclave. Chapter Four treats the acceptance and proclamation of the Roman Pontiff once he is elected. Theological issues sometimes arise from this rite. For example, number 63 indicates that if the one elected Pope does not have the Episcopal character he is immediately to be ordained a Bishop. It is also indicated later that the cardinals shall render obedience to the person elected, and his election should be communicated to the people only after he has been consecrated a Bishop. Chapter Five describes the public announcement of the election before the new Pope gives his blessing *Urbi et Orbi*. An appendix completes the work with formularies for the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the Mass for the Universal Church, the Mass of Our Lady of the Cenacle, the Mass of Saints Peter and Paul, and some other texts including the blessing *Urbi et Orbi*.

The final work of interest is the *Ordo Rituum pro Ministerii Petrini Initio Romae Episcopi*, published in 2005. The introduction covers the rites that occur at the beginning of the papal ministry. The highlight of the ritual book is the text for the celebration of the Eucharist at the beginning of the pope’s new ministry as Bishop of Rome, with the imposition of the pallium and the giving of the Ring of the Fisherman. Texts are also provided for the new pope’s first visits to his Basilicas in Rome. In the days following the Inauguration, he visits the tomb of Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Later, he is seated on the *cathedra* as the new Bishop of Rome during a celebration of the Eucharist at Rome’s cathedral, the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran. Finally, he completes the rites by visiting the Basilica of St. Mary Major to venerate the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary, “*Salus Populi Romani*” (“Protectress of the Roman People”), which is given great devotion by the Roman people and by popes throughout the ages.

These three works provide valuable insights into the theology of the Petrine ministry, and contain much detail for important moments in the life of the Church. They are invaluable resources that should be in any liturgist’s library.