



FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

NOTES FOR JULY 2015



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Assumption of the BVM—Holy Day of Obligation or Not?

Q. Is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a holy day of obligation this year?

A. August 15 lands on a Saturday in 2015. Since 1993, the Church in the United States has followed the practice that when January 1 (Mary, the Holy Mother of God), August 15 (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), or November 1 (All Saints) lands on a Saturday or a Monday, the obligation to participate in Mass is lifted. Therefore, the Assumption is not a holy day of obligation in 2015.

Masses celebrated the morning and the afternoon prior to 4:00 pm would be for the Assumption. Masses after 4:00 pm would be the usual anticipatory Mass for Sunday.

Looking ahead to 2016, August 15 will be on a Monday due to the leap year. This means that it would not be a holy day of obligation in 2016, either.

All Saints/All Souls Reminder

This year, All Saints (November 1) lands on a Sunday. Since All Saints is of a higher rank on the Table of Liturgical Days than a Sunday in Ordinary Time, Masses on this Sunday would be for All Saints and not the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. In addition, since there are no proper vigil texts for All Saints, Masses on the evening of October 31 would be anticipatory Masses for All Saints. And no need to question whether or not it is a holy day of obligation—it is a Sunday!

As usual, November 2 brings us the Commemoration of All Souls. Since it holds the special title of “commemoration,” it has its own set of rules:

- ✘ It takes precedent over the Mass of the day (even on Sunday)
- ✘ Priests are granted the privilege of celebrating three Masses—one for a particular intention, one for all the faithful departed, and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- ✘ Funeral Masses may be celebrated this day, but other ritual Masses may not

Chapter 57 of the *Book of Blessings* provides an “Order for Visiting a Cemetery on All Souls Day” that can be used right after Mass or apart from the Mass.

New Translation of the *Order of Confirmation*

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has confirmed the new English translation of the *Order of Confirmation*, with a *recognitio* decree dated March 25, 2015. Following consultation with the Committee on Divine Worship, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, USCCB President, has set the implementation date of the new text for Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016.

This edition of the *Ordo Confirmationis* is the first major “retranslation” to receive the *recognitio* of the Holy See since the implementation of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* in 2011, and represents the first of the new translations of rituals and other liturgical books expected to be promulgated in the coming years. As this is a shorter text, and one that most people encounter infrequently and that has fewer parts spoken by the congregation, the changes with respect to the previous version will perhaps not seem as striking as the changes in the new *Missal* when it was introduced.

Two key texts of the ritual have not changed in this new translation. The Bishop’s assent to the profession of faith remains as before: “This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord” (nos. 23, 40). Likewise, the translators found no need to propose a modification of the text of the words used at the conferral of the Sacrament: “**N.**, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (nos. 27, 44, 55-56).

Most of the text, however, is noticeably distinct from that of the current translation. For example, the language, vocabulary, dialogs, etc., is consistent with what has been found in the *Roman Missal*. Even though the changes are not dramatic in most instances, there are some places where the changes are notable, beginning with the title: until now the *Rite of Confirmation*, the book is henceforth the *Order of Confirmation*.

The change that will perhaps draw the most attention is the enumeration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the oration at the Laying On of Hands, which now joins the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in using more traditional names for some of the gifts – counsel, fortitude, piety, and the fear of the Lord.

Another addition to this ritual involves the suggested readings. Instead of simply listing the choices for the Biblical readings at Confirmation, this edition will contain the texts of those readings in full. This is meant to assist study and preparation for ceremonies, and would also mean that the ritual could be used in place of the Lectionary in case of necessity.

There has been only one edition of the Confirmation rite since the Second Vatican Council, the *Ordo Confirmationis*, published in 1973. A few emendations to the text were made following the promulgation of the new *Code of Canon Law* in 1983, and the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia* introduced new proper insertions to be used with Eucharistic Prayers II and III. The new *Order of Confirmation* reflects these additions.

The *Order of Confirmation* will be published solely by USCCB Communications, and is expected to be available in fall 2015. Because of the increased frequency across the country of celebrating Confirmation in Spanish as well as English, this new publication will be bilingual.

Local impact—While the changes found in the revised *Order* primarily impact the text and spoken word, any time a new or revised ritual book is introduced it is appropriate to look at our liturgical practices of the rite as a whole and make sure that nothing has been overlooked (a conversation that should happen regardless of the age it is celebrated). The Office of Worship will keep you updated on timelines for implementation as well as any resources needed to help in this process. This revised *Order of Confirmation* will be a ritual book that every church should have on its shelf in the sacristy.

Information from the BCDW Newsletters for April/May 2015 and June 2015 were used in this article.

Catechetical Sunday 2015



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 20, 2015, and will focus on the theme “Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person.” Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists may be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

To help parishes celebrate this day, the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis has assembled resources for the parish, the family, and the school. These can be found at the USCCB Catechetical Sunday 2015 website: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/human-dignity/index.cfm>.

In addition, chapter four of the *Book of Blessings* provides an Order for the Blessing of Those Appointed as Catechists” that may be used in or outside of Mass. This could be used at the Masses Catechetical Sunday weekend to publicly recognize those who have made the commitment to serve as catechists, as well as giving the faithful of the community the opportunity to publicly pray for and support those entrusted with this great work.

Lastly, please do not forget to recognize parents as the first teachers of children. The role which they play is essential, and our prayerful support of them is greatly needed and appreciated.

Back to School, Labor Day, and the *Book of Blessings*

BEGINNING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN PRAYER

As the beginning of the school year approaches, it is right to look at starting the year in prayer. Here are a few suggestions from the resources of the Church:

- ✠ *Book of Blessings*—Chapter 5 provides an “Order for the Blessing of Students and Teachers,” which may be done both in and out of Mass. This could be done for the entire school or even by individual classes.
- ✠ *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*—Part V: Prayers for Catholic Living provides some simple prayers to start and end the school year, as well as a “Prayer for Students” and a “Prayer for Teachers.” There is also a simple “Blessing Before an Athletic Event” that may be helpful for coaches or parent volunteers.
- ✠ Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit—In many places it is customary to invoke the intercession of the Holy Spirit on the start of the academic year by celebrating a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit, or “Red Mass,” on a weekday that allows for a Votive Mass to be celebrated (check your *ordo*). Proper prayers for the Mass can be found in the *Roman Missal* under Votive Masses, #9, The Holy Spirit; and readings can be found in the Lectionary at #1001.

LITURGIES FOR LABOR DAY

We give thanks to God for the gift of work, and we ask that he “give success to the work of our hands” (Psalm 90:17). Since there is no other feast day on September 7 that would take precedent, parishes may wish to consider celebrating Masses on Labor Day using the following texts:

- ✠ *Roman Missal*: Masses and Prayer for Various Needs and Occasions, II. For Civil Needs, #26 A or B, For the Sanctification of Human Labor
- ✠ Lectionary: #907-911, For the Blessing of Human Labor

Upcoming Conferences



2016 Symposium: *Liturgy and the New Evangelization*
June 20-23, 2016
Notre Dame Center for Liturgy
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN

“The Christian faithful must slowly learn, through the art of self-giving love made possible through the mystery of the liturgy, to allow external participation...to become an internal gift of self to God and neighbor alike. To really mean what it is that we pray; to bring the sacrifice of our lives to the altar as a eucharistic offering of love; to mark ourselves with the sign of the cross no longer in a perfunctory way but as a commitment that our body might become an icon of Christ’s own self-gift for the world.”

- Timothy O’Malley, *Liturgy and the New Evangelization: Practicing the Art of Self-Giving Love*, 33.

The 2016 Symposium seeks to discern how liturgical prayer, sacramental formation, and liturgical catechesis can contribute to the new evangelization. The Center for Liturgy knows that the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church offers rich resources for the new evangelization. Further, we believe that Pope Francis’ comprehensive treatment of the new evangelization in *Evangelii Gaudium* requires us to re-think how we understand the importance of liturgical and sacramental formation in our parishes.

It will also include time for liturgists, clergy, catechists, high school teachers, and campus ministers to gather together and discuss in working groups led by nationally recognized catechetical and liturgical leaders strategies for their own particular community. This year’s gathering will employ the See, Judge, and Act method of theological reflection.

Speakers include:

- ✘ Kimberly Belcher, Assistant Professor in Liturgical Studies, University of Notre Dame
- ✘ Michael McCallion, Rev. William Cunningham Chair in Catholic Social Analysis and Professor of Theology, Sacred Heart Major Seminary
- ✘ James Pauley, Associate Professor of Theology and Catechetics, Franciscan University
- ✘ Anthony Ruff, O.S.B., Associate Professor of Theology, Saint John’s School of Theology and Seminary
- ✘ Christian Smith, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society, University of Notre Dame
- ✘ Dora Tobar, Director, Pastoral Office for Family Life and Hispanic Ministry, Diocese of Lafayette, Indiana
- ✘ Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Assistant Professor and Faculty Coordinator for Distance Learning Systems, Loyola University--New Orleans

This is still a year away, but it promises to be one of the better symposiums in recent memory. Please plan to be there! More details available in early 2016.