



# Summit and Source

*The Bulletin of the Office of Worship*

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## In this Issue

“A Year-Round Catechumenate?” Dr. Donna Eschenauer	page 2
“Productive Rehearsal Time for Choirs” Mr. Christopher Ferraro	page 4
Guidelines for Lent/Easter	page 6
Updates on Liturgical Books	page 7
Liturgical Guidelines and Policies	page 8
Training Sessions, Spring 2018	page 9

## Save the Dates

Rite of Election– February 17 & 18
Call to Continuing Conversion-February 25
Permanent Diaconate Ordination– May 19
Priesthood Ordination– June 23

## Lent and Easter 2018

Ash Wednesday– February 14
First Sunday of Lent– February 18
Palm Sunday– March 25
Holy Thursday– March 29
Good Friday– March 30
Holy Saturday– March 31
Easter Sunday– April 1
Divine Mercy Sunday– April 8
Ascension—May 10
Pentecost—May 20



## ARTICLE: RCIA

# “A Year-Round Catechumenate”

By **DONNA ESCHENAUER, Ph.D.**

*Dr. Eschenauer is Associate Dean of St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, NY.*



Initiation ministry is a sacred trust. Therefore, we need to give appropriate attention, sound theological interpretation, and better pastoral implementation of the rites to those, unbaptized or baptized persons from other ecclesial communities, who come to deepen their spiritual journey in the Catholic Church. This article provides the basis for the ideal of a year-round model for the implementation of the RCIA. Regretfully, far too many parishes across the United States are still operating on a school-year model that insists people wait until September to inquire. In much the same way, many treat inquirers, regardless of their baptismal status, as if they were a class in school leading them lock-step toward initiation at the Easter Vigil.

All inquirers are not the same and the length of time to complete the process toward initiation depends, to a certain extent, on the individual. From inquiry to full initiation, or from inquiry to reception into full communion, the length of time should be determined on a readiness model. One-size does not fit all! The motivation from one period of the Rite to another should be motivated by the action and presence of God in their lives, not a school-year calendar. With a year-round, ongoing process, accommodated to the liturgical year, individuals are invited to inquire when they respond to God's call. Practically speaking, this means that the precatechumenate and catechumenate periods are in place throughout the year.

To further illustrate this point, with permission of the inquirer, allow me to provide an example. Ed called the parish inquiring about becoming Catholic in July. He did not geographically live in the parish. In fact, he lived several miles away in another diocese. Baptized in another ecclesial community, for years he was drawn to the Catholic Church. As a professional singer he had the opportunity to sing in choirs in several Catholic Churches. A life threatening illness compelled him to fulfill his dream of becoming Catholic. Sadly, because it was the summer, no one at any of his neighborhood parishes would speak to him. He told me ours was the last parish he called, and, he almost did not make the call thinking maybe God did not have Catholicism in mind for him. I am happy to say I met Ed the next day, and he joined our (ongoing) inquiry group immediately. A few months later, on the Feast of Christ the King, he was received into full communion of the Catholic Church. Moreover, he enthusiastically attended our (year-round) monthly mystagogy sessions and remained an active member of our parish despite the distance from his home.

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(“Catechumenate” *continued*)

The RCIA envisions a *gradual* process with a catechumenate of at least one year (RCIA 75; National Statutes 6) with the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Baptized Christians from other ecclesial communities, on the other hand, do not need a lengthy period of formation. In fact, we may celebrate reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church when the person is ready – anytime during the year – one person at a time. Ideally, reception should *not* take place at the Easter Vigil (National Statutes 33).

The pastoral implications for a year-round catechumenate are rich. The parish that takes initiation ministry seriously understands itself as an evangelizing parish – a parish that has moved beyond mere administration. The pastor, in collaboration with the pastoral staff, articulates a vision appropriate to the RCIA. In other words, the RCIA is *not* a catechetical program, it is a rite of Church that recognizes the intimate connection between liturgy and catechesis (*National Directory for Catechesis*, Ch. 5). Enthusiasm for a year-round catechumenate develops as the parish, with the help of the RCIA coordinator, appreciates the Church’s vision for full implementation of the Rite.

A year-round catechumenate is possible, particularly when we are attentive to the words expressed in the Introduction to the RCIA, which says, “The people of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptized” (RCIA Introduction, 9).



G. Shemitz

## ARTICLE: MUSIC MINISTRY

# “Productive Rehearsal Time for Choirs”

By **MR. CHRISTOPHER FERRARO, MA**

*Mr. Ferraro is Director of Music at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Lindenhurst.*



G. Shemitz

Leading an effective choir rehearsal requires skill and patience. The choir director is responsible for making the best use of choir members' time every week and in helping them understand their function as liturgical ministers and leaders of sung prayer.

Communication with choir members is essential to an effective rehearsal. If you need to cancel rehearsal, as much as possible, give the singers advance notice. If your rehearsals start at 7:30, then start at 7:30. Time is very valuable for people and if they feel that their time is being wasted, they may start coming later and later. I always ask members to communicate with me if they will not be at rehearsal. My choir members know they can sign-out using the clipboard in the choir loft or by emailing, calling or texting me. It is not fair to go past the announced end time without advance notice. My choir members know that the rehearsal before Christmas or Holy Week will be longer than usual but I always announce that in advance so that people can prepare accordingly. Be sure to use multiple modes of communication as not everyone will grasp what the director says the first time. If you make a verbal communication to the choir, follow up with an email.

Warmups are very important for maintaining healthy singing voices and should always take place before singing. Make them fun for your choir and change them up so they don't become boring. Nothing is worse than singing the same warmups week after week. Also, various exercises focus on different parts of the voice and different areas of vocal technique. One might focus on the proper shape of the mouth for vowel sounds while another might focus on breath support. Deep breathing exercises and stretching are important components of warmups as well, not only to help the singers relax after a stressful day, but also to help their singing technique. See [www.totalchoirresources.com](http://www.totalchoirresources.com) for some resources for warmups.

The actual rehearsing of music will take up most of the rehearsal time. It is essential to have a written-out plan, a roadmap of sorts. Sometimes the plan has to be adapted during rehearsal but there should always be a plan, nonetheless. If there is an accompanist or instrumentalist(s), make sure they know the plan as well. Some directors post the plan or make copies for everyone to see. Don't introduce too much new music in one rehearsal. We want to challenge our choir members appropriately, but not scare them away. Also, be careful about over-rehearsing a given piece of music. A more advanced choral anthem may have to be learned in sections over the course of a couple of weeks. It is sometimes helpful to learn the more advanced sections first before learning the simpler sections. Be sure to end rehearsal with a piece that the choir is confident with. You want them to leave rehearsal feeling accomplished, not frustrated.

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(“Choirs” *continued*)

The best posture for singing is standing, however, most singers won’t be able to stand for the entire length of the rehearsal. Consider having them remain seated as you go over parts and then have them stand when the entire piece is sung. Changing posture frequently will help to keep everyone’s attention, as well. In the middle of rehearsal, encourage everyone to stretch. Remind the singers that when they are singing sitting down, their backs should be away from the seat back.

The effective use of sectional rehearsals, either prior to regular rehearsal time or at another time, can really help maximize everyone’s time and help singers learn their parts better, particularly on new pieces. Making cd’s or emailing recordings of parts can help as well, just be aware that if the music is copyrighted, you must have a license to do so. See [www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net) for more information about their Practice-Track License. Links to YouTube videos can be helpful, but always be sure you have reviewed the video to make sure it is of good quality and is performed correctly.

Prayer is an essential part of a choir rehearsal, either at the beginning or at the end. Some choirs have members take turns leading a brief prayer while others have a fixed pattern of praying, perhaps with reading the gospel or one of the other Scripture readings for the coming Sunday. If the rehearsal is in the evening, consider praying Night Prayer from the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the official daily prayer of the Church, at the end of rehearsal. Or, at least sing the Salve Regina or the Cantic of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*), two staples from Night Prayer.

Announcements help members to realize the importance of belonging to the choir. Let them know what events or special liturgies are coming up. If a member is sick or is in need of prayers, let everyone know about it. Discuss the choir’s social activities, the upcoming concert or the plans to adopt a needy family for Christmas. Do everything you can to make the singers feel connected to the choir. Doing the announcements in the middle of rehearsal gives everyone a chance to briefly rest their voices and assures that those who may have to arrive late or leave early don’t miss important information.

There are a lot of details in leading an effective choir rehearsal. The goal should never be to sing all the music, or even a single piece of music, perfectly, either in rehearsal or during the Liturgy. The only perfect Liturgy is the heavenly Liturgy. Ultimately, “good music ‘make[s] the liturgical prayers of the Christian community more alive and fervent so that everyone can praise and beseech the Triune God more powerfully, more intently and more effectively (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, no. 5, quoting *Musicae Sacrae Disciplina*, no. 31.)





## **LENT/EASTER REMINDERS**

### **Décor of the Church during Lent**

Churches and chapels should not be decorated with flowers during the season of Lent, with the exception of *Laetare Sunday* (March 11, 2018). Emphasis should be placed on sparsity and absence. Decorating with desert plants and sand displays are not necessary and may actually contradict the theme of sparsity and absence. Modest use of “Lenten purple” (lighter purple) cloths and banners may be used.

### **Baptisms and Holy Water during Lent**

Although Lent is a time when catechumens are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation, this does not prevent babies from being baptized in the Roman Catholic Church during Lent. However, it would be not be fitting for baptisms to occur during Holy Week and they are forbidden from Holy Thursday up to the Easter Vigil. Similarly, holy water may be left in churches until Holy Thursday, when all fonts should be emptied.

### **Chrism Mass and disposal of old Holy Oils**

Pastors or their representatives may pick up new Holy Oils following the Chrism Mass on March 29, 2018, at St. Agnes Cathedral. Old oils may be burned or buried on church grounds. It is not recommended that they be poured down the sacrarium, as doing so may cause clogging. Oil containers may be cleaned with a paper towel or cotton balls, which are then burned. Pastors and liturgists may consider purchasing a “Sacramental Oil Burner” manufactured by *Meyer-Vogelpohl*.

### **Sequences for Easter and Pentecost**

The sequences for Easter and Pentecost (*Paschali victimae laudes* and *Veni Sancte Spiritus*) are to be sung following the second reading; the sequence is optional for the Pentecost Vigil *only*. Pastors should confer with music directors to find the most suitable setting. English versions are found in most hymnals.

### **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (4/9/18)**

Because the normal date of the Annunciation of the Lord falls within Holy Week (3/25/18), this solemnity is transferred to the Monday after the octave day of Easter, April 9. As a solemnity, it should be celebrated with a high level of festivity (e.g., music, use of incense, etc.).

### **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (5/13/18)**

The solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord falls forty days after Easter and, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, it is celebrated on the day itself, Thursday, May 13. As a solemnity and a Holy day of Obligation, it should be celebrated with a high level of festivity (e.g., music, use of incense, etc.).

### **Pentecost Vigil (5/19/18)**

The 2011 Roman Missal offers Catholics the opportunity to celebrate the Pentecost Vigil, which somewhat mirrors the structure of the Easter Vigil. Priests and liturgical ministers should consult the *ordo* and the Roman Missal for directives on the manner of celebrating this beautiful liturgy.

## LITURGY UPDATES: LITURGICAL BOOKS

Pastors, priests, and those involved with the care of the liturgy are asked to please take note of the following development with liturgical rites and rituals:

### ***Book of the Chair (Excerpts from the Roman Missal):***

A new liturgical book for use by celebrants at the presider's chair containing only those texts needed when at the chair, thus being lighter and easier to work with. This is a completely new text that was not available before and, as such, does not replace any other editions. It is not mandated for use at any time, but is meant to be of help to priests and altar servers. Various styles and sizes of this edition will be available from the following three publishers: (1) World Library Publications, (2) Catholic Book Publishing, and (3) Magnificat.



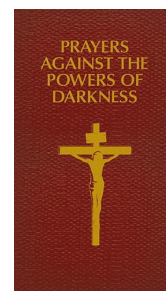
### ***Misal Romano (Spanish Missal):***

Official Spanish-language Missal for the dioceses of the United States. The first date of use will be Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018. **Mandatory use** for all parishes begins the First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018. This Missal will replace any Spanish language Missals you now have in use in your parish. Full size and smaller size editions of this new text will be available through the following three publishers: (1) Catholic Book Publishing, (2) Liturgical Press, (3) Magnificat.



### ***Prayers Against the Powers of Darkness:***

This small prayer book designed for use by the faithful is intended to assist Christians in seeking deliverance and help strengthen their faith in God. It is not, per se, a liturgical-ritual book nor does it contain the Rite of Exorcism, which is reserved to priests. This book may be purchased from the USCCB.



## LITURGY POLICIES & UPDATES

### On godparents and sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation:

The Diocese of Rockville Centre offers priests, deacons, and ministry leaders a convenient form for official use when documentation is required for sponsors or godparents. The form may be accessed using the following link: <http://www.drvc-faith.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Baptism-and-Confirmation-Sponsor-Information-2-29-16.pdf>

Copies of this document can be made for parish offices and even included with baptismal prep packets.

### On the Baptismal Priesthood, the Offertory Gifts, and the Tabernacle:

The teachings of the Church tell us that because of the priestly nature of the sacrament of baptism, all Catholics are involved in the sacrifice of the Mass. Pope Pius XII said: “In this act of Sacrifice through the hands of the priest, by whose word alone the Immaculate Lamb is present on the altar, the faithful themselves, united with him in prayer and desire, offer to the Eternal Father a most acceptable victim of praise and propitiation for the needs of the whole Church” (*Mystici Corporis*, 82). The fathers at Vatican II concurred: “By offering the Immaculate Victim, not only through the hands of the priest, but also with him, they should learn also to offer themselves; through Christ the Mediator, they should be drawn day by day into ever more perfect union with God and with each other, so that finally God may be all in all” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 48). With this in mind, every effort should be made to ensure that the faithful receive the Eucharist that has been consecrated at the same Mass, reducing the practice of retrieving Hosts from the tabernacle as a regular occurrence. Encouragement comes from the fathers of Vatican II, when they state: “That more perfect form of participation in the Mass whereby the faithful, after the priest's communion, receive the Lord's body from the same sacrifice, is strongly commended.” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 55).

### On Faith Formation for Those entering the Church:

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the means by which new Catholics are formed and receive membership in the Roman Catholic Church. The people who are part of the RCIA are unbaptized persons—those who have never been Christian or validly baptized. Others who wish to enter the Catholic Church from another Christian denomination and have received a valid baptism are those who seek “full communion,” and may be admitted into the Church at any time of year, provided they have been found ready to enter. They may be placed in a formation group separate from those in the RCIA. Likewise, baptized Catholics who never received Confirmation and/or First Holy Communion and are uncatechized are placed in the same kind of group for formation to receive those sacraments.

For more information on the RCIA and the various rituals, please see the resources offered by Liturgical Training Publications (LTP):

Books: <http://ltp.org/products/subject/BKSCIN/christian-initiation>

Online Virtual Workshops: <http://ltp.org/products/subject/MMEVWS/virtual-workshops-catalog>

The Office of Faith Formation will be offering an **RCIA study day** on Sunday, April 22, 2018, 2:00-7:00PM at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington. Please contact Ellen Zafonte at the Office for further details: (516) 678-5800.



# Liturgical Ministry Training

**ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP 516-678-5800 x504**

- 1. TRAINING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:** required for all those who are beginning as Ministers. Session "A" is required of ALL Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to homebound persons are required to attend Session "B" **in addition** to Session "A". **SESSION "A" MUST BE ATTENDED PRIOR TO SESSION "B".**

**TO REGISTER FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER TRAINING:** the pastor must send a letter to Bishop Barres **at least 5 days in advance** requesting the training for each person attending.

**DO NOT USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.**

**This letter must mention the date and place of the training session the person(s) will attend.**

- 2. TRAINING FOR LECTORS: PLEASE USE THE TEAR-OFF BELOW.**

## **TIMES AND PLACES FOR MINISTRY TRAINING:**

**In Nassau: EM "A" Session and Lectors**  
April 14, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM  
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

**In Suffolk: EM "A" Session and Lectors**  
May 12, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM  
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

**"B" session for Extraordinary Ministers**  
April 21, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM  
St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre

**"B" Session for Extraordinary Ministers**  
May 19, 2018; 9 AM—1 PM  
St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays

## **EVENING SESSIONS for Extraordinary Ministers and Lectors at St. Elizabeth, Melville**

Session "A" - Wednesday, May 16 2018; 7:00—10 PM

Session "B" - Wednesday, May 23, 2018; 7:00—10 PM

## **WORKSHOP FEES:**

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: \$30 per person

Lectors: \$20 per person

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## **REGISTRATION FORM FOR LECTOR TRAINING ONLY**

Mail this registration to the Office of Worship, PO Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023,  
e-mail to [worship@drvc.org](mailto:worship@drvc.org), or fax to 516-764-3316.

I wish to register for Lector Training

- ☐ St. Agnes Parish Center, Rockville Centre (Saturday, April 14, 2018)  
☐ St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays (Saturday, May 12, 2018)  
☐ St. Elizabeth, Melville (Wednesday, May 16, 2018)

Name ..... Phone .....

Parish ..... Town .....