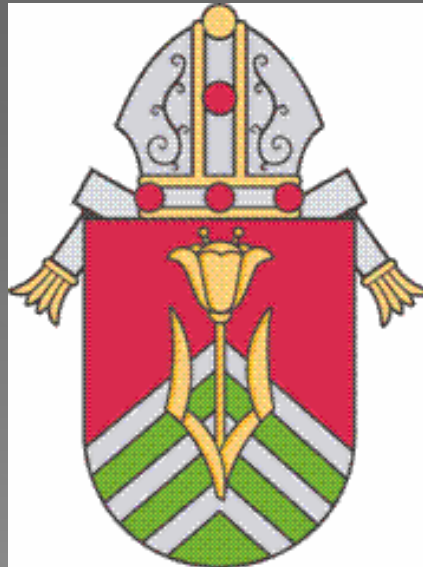


# LITURGY COMMITTEE BASICS

Bernadette McMasters Kime, D.Min.  
Office of Worship and Sacraments



# Who we are?

- ◉ Name
- ◉ Parish you belong to
- ◉ Your role in the liturgy



# What is Liturgy?

- Greek meaning “public work”. It is the work of God in which we participate with God.
- Used to describe: Mass, Sacraments, Funerals, Liturgy of the Hours, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, other blessings.
- Second Vatican Council hoped to reclaim the liturgy as the prayer of the people.

# Second Vatican Council

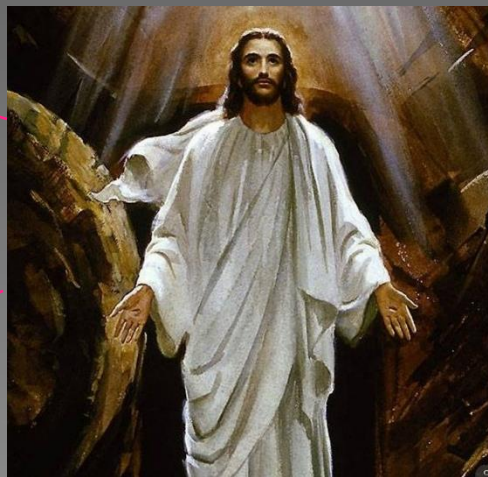
## Sancrosanctum Concilium: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

- “The liturgy is the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the fount from which all the Church’s power flows.”
- “The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations called for by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people. . .is their right and duty by their baptism.”
- “In the reform and promotion of the liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else.”

- ◉ Although most of us do not remember our baptism, it is there that we were called to share in the “priestly ministry of Christ.” We are members of the priesthood of all believers.
- ◉ We were given the right and duty to actively participate in the liturgy.
- ◉ Since the faithful have a “right” to good liturgy, that places a lot of responsibility on those of us involved in preparing liturgies or serving as a liturgical minister.

○ Christ is present in the Liturgy in four ways:

- > Word
- > Eucharist
- > People
- > Priest Celebrant



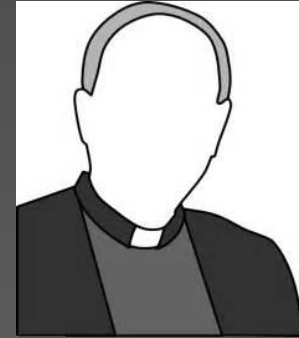
# Liturgical Committee

- Role of Pastor /Administrator
- Who should make up the committee?
  - > Paid staff (or volunteer music minister)
  - > Those responsible for liturgical ministries
  - > Those responsible for environment
- What should the Committee do?
  - > Evaluate and prepare



# Role of Pastor/Administrator

- Church is hierarchical



- Know your documents and official Church teachings

- Respectful dialogue

- Contact the Diocese





# Liturgical Year



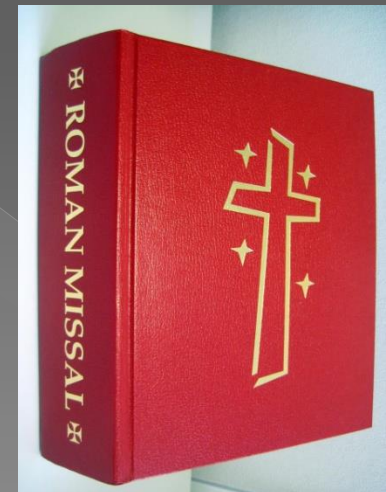
# Liturgical Year

- ◉ Advent/Christmas
- ◉ Lent/Holy Week (Triduum)/Easter
- ◉ Ordinary Time

**We celebrate the entire Paschal Mystery!!**

# Authority in the Church

- Ritual texts with rubrics
- Instructions
  - General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM)
- Norms and Guidelines
  - Sing to the Lord
  - Built of Living Stones
  - DWC Liturgical Guidelines



# Liturgical Ministries

- ◉ Vatican II stated that there needs to be a variety of ministries:
  - > Ministers of Hospitality (greeters and ushers)
  - > Readers
  - > Altar Server
  - > Extra-ordinary Ministers of Communion
  - > Musicians (cantors, choir members, instrumentalists)



# Environment and Art



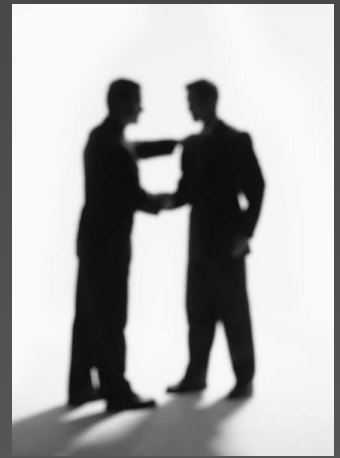
- ◉ “Progressive solemnity” – LESS IS MORE
- ◉ Reference: Built of Living Stones, USCCB
  - The Altar is the primary symbol that is “at the center of thanksgiving that the Eucharist accomplishes and the point around which the other rites are in some manner arrayed... The altar is the natural focal point of the sanctuary and is to be freestanding to allow the priest to walk around it easily... the altar must be visible from all parts of the Church...”

# Environment and Art

## ◉ Built of Living Stones, (continued)

- > “Decorations are intended to draw people to the true nature of the mystery being celebrated rather than being ends in themselves. Natural flowers, plants, wreaths, and fabric hangings, and other seasonal objects can be arranged to enhance the primary liturgical points of focus. The altar should remain clear and free-standing, not walled by massive floral displays or the Christmas crib, and pathway in the narthex, nave and sanctuary should remain clear.”

# Evaluating the Liturgy



## ◎ Hospitality

- > What is the first impression someone gets when they walk in the door of the Church?
- > Are they greeted warmly, does someone help them find a seat, if they are disabled does someone take extra time with them?
- > If a small community and “Jane Doe” has been missing for over a month and finally comes back, does someone tell her how much the community missed her?
- > What does the space say about the liturgy?
- > How is the sound system and the lighting?
- > What does the space say about the role of the assembly, about the Eucharist?

# Evaluating the Liturgy

- Role of the Presider
  - > How does he pray the parts of the Mass: speaking, gestures, postures?
  - > How is the preaching?





# Evaluating the Liturgy



## ◉ Music

- > Did the music encourage congregational singing?
- > Were the cantors and music ministers performing or leading?
- > Did the song selection complement the readings and the liturgical season?

# Evaluating the Liturgy



## ◉ Ministers

- > How well did they fulfill their role?
- > Readers – did they proclaim the readings clearly with meaning without being overly dramatic?
- > Extraordinary ministers – were they reverent and in awe of the Body and Blood of Christ?
- > What about the attire of the ministers?
- > Did the altar servers pay attention and participate in the dialogues and acclamations?

# Evaluating the Liturgy

## ● Environment

- > Can you tell what season of the year we are in?
- > Did we “over-do” the decorations?
- > Are the decorations a distraction to authentic worship?



# Resources

## ◉ Key Resources

- > Roman Missal, third edition
- > *Sancrosanctum Concilium*: Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy
- > General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM)
- > *Redemptoris Sacramentum*: (Eucharistic Documents for the New Millennium)
- > Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship
- > Built of Living Stones
- > Liturgical Guidelines: Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

# Resources

- ◉ Guides for . . . Liturgy Committee, servers, extraordinary ministers, readers, cantors, ushers and greeters
- ◉ Music and the Mass: A Practical Guide for ministers of music
- ◉ The Church at Worship: Theology, Spirituality and Practice in the Church
- ◉ Preparing for Liturgy: A Theology and Spirituality