



## ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

### Secretariat for Evangelization

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299

Telephone (215) 587-3537 • Fax (215) 587-3561

OFFICE for WORSHIP

January 2009

Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father and Deacon,

### SOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR ITEMS

#### **January 1, 2009, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

Thursday, January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation.

#### **January 22, 2009, Day of Penance and Prayer**

In November 2001, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved several adaptations to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. Following confirmation by the Holy See in February 2002, and the publication of the third edition of the *Missale Romanum* with the *Institutio generalis* itself in April 2002, the US adaptations became particular law for the dioceses of the United States of America, including:

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when the 22<sup>nd</sup> falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass “For Peace and Justice” (no. 22 from “Masses for Various Needs”) should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance of this day.

#### **January 25, 2009, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul**

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments granted on January 25, 2008, the following special faculty for the Jubilee Year of Saint Paul:

Therefore, in force of the faculties attributed to this Congregation by the Supreme Pontiff, Benedict XVI, grants, in an extraordinary way, that next January 25, 2009, the Third Sunday "per annum", the singular churches can celebrate a Mass according to the formula *Conversion of St Paul, Apostle*, as found in the Roman Missal. In this

case, the Second Reading of the Mass is taken from the Roman Lectionary for the Third Sunday "per annum", and the Creed is recited.

## **COORDINATORS OF LITURGICAL PLANNING**

The Office for Worship is compiling a data base of those in our parishes entrusted with the coordination of liturgical planning. The purpose of this data base is to provide helpful and instructional liturgical information to those who assist pastors with the planning of liturgical celebrations. If your parish has the assistance of such a coordinator, please email the Office of Worship with this person's contact information. Thank you.

## **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastors and chaplains are reminded to inform the Office for Worship if they are conducting their own training and to send to this office their request for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Request forms can be found on the Office for Worship website. Letters of Appointment will then follow. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed for a three year term and for the place where they are commissioned. Terms may be renewed if agreeable to both the pastor/chaplain and the minister.

## **WORKSHOP: *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship***

A full day workshop on the USCCB document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. This workshop is designed for clergy, music ministers and anyone interested in the document. The new document replaces the previous documents, *Music in Catholic Worship* and *Liturgical Music Today*. The new document gives theological and liturgical directives on who, what, why and how to sing the Sacred Liturgy. More information will follow. Pastors, parish music directors and music ministers are encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions about any of the above points, please don't hesitate to give me a call at the office or send me an e-mail, [frdgill@adphila.org](mailto:frdgill@adphila.org). Please check the website for liturgical resources and helpful liturgical links, <http://archphila.org/evangelization/worship.htm>.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill  
Director