



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

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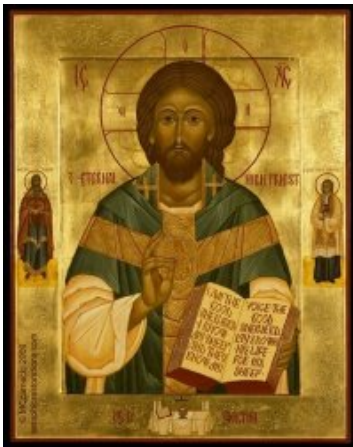
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**SEPTEMBER 2009**

*GREETINGS FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP!*

**INFLUENZA/SWINE FLU AND THE LITURGY** - Pastors and parish leaders have been receiving questions from their parishioners regarding the liturgical implications of the transmission of pathogens. Throughout the years, the Committee on Divine Worship has addressed this issue on numerous occasions. However, with the swine flu virus appearing in the United States, the Secretariat of Divine Worship, having consulted with experts, offers some brief reflections on “influenza/swine flu and the Liturgy.” *Parishes may reproduce the enclosed resource, provided that it is not offered for sale and that the copyright notice is included on all copies.*

**THIRD EDITION, ROMAN MISSAL** – The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship has created a new website dedicated entirely to information and progress on the revised edition of the *Roman Missal*. This website is attractive and user-friendly and is created for both the priest and lay faithful. Please invite your parishioners to visit the website at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal/about](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/about) for questions they may have about changes in the Liturgy.



**YEAR FOR PRIESTS** – Pope Benedict XVI has declared a “Year for Priests” beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father on June 19, 2010.

*Sample intercessions for the “Year for Priests” are enclosed with this mailing.*

**Click here** to find out more on how you can help celebrate this year-long event in your parish.

*The “Year for Priests” is now on Facebook! Please invite your parishioners to become fans!*

**CREATING AN EFFECTIVE MYSTAGOGY** – *Mark your calendars* for this exciting workshop! This afternoon workshop is for all RCIA catechists and team leaders. You’ve seen how powerful the catechumenal process can be. You’ve been moved by the initiation rites themselves. And you’ve been amazed how often the process seems to stop immediately after baptism, sometimes with the neophytes disappearing altogether. It does not have to be that way! Many parishes across the country are creating a *separate mystagogy team*! Think about those people in your parish who can continue the RCIA process with the neophytes. Send them to this workshop! Please see enclosed flyer for more information.

**2010 LITURGICAL BOOK ORDER FORM** – Liturgical year, Cycle C, begins November 29, 2010. Books can be ordered from the Office of Worship and will be drop-shipped from publishers directly to parishes. Any discounts given to the Office of Worship are shared with parishes. Your order helps keep this office financially viable. Thank you for ordering through us!

## Ten Questions on Influenza/Swine Flu and the Liturgy

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*Throughout the years, the Committee on Divine Worship's Newsletter has addressed the liturgical implications of the transmission of pathogens on numerous occasions. With the swine flu virus appearing in the United States, the Secretariat of Divine Worship, having consulted with experts, offers the following brief reflections on "influenza/swine flu and the Liturgy."*



1. What is swine flu influenza?  
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "swine influenza (swine flu) is a disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people."
2. Why is there particular concern for the spread of swine flu at this moment?  
Numerous cases of swine flu were recently confirmed in the United States. The CDC is presently monitoring this health issue and will give further guidance as the situation warrants.
3. What is the best way to prevent the transmission of the swine flu virus?  
The CDC suggests that, "as with other infectious illnesses, one of the most important and appropriate preventive practices is careful and frequent hand hygiene. Cleaning your hands often using either soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers removes potentially infectious materials from your skin and helps prevent disease transmission."
4. How is the influenza virus transmitted?  
According to the CDC, "influenza viruses are spread when a person who has the flu coughs, sneezes, or speaks and spreads virus into the air, and other people inhale the virus. When these viruses enter the nose, throat, or lungs of a person, they begin to multiply, causing symptoms of the flu."
5. Does transmission of the flu require direct contact between persons?  
"The viruses can also be spread when a person touches a surface with flu viruses on it (for example, a door handle) and then touches his or her nose or mouth. A person who is sick with the flu can spread viruses – that means they are contagious. Adults may be contagious from one day before developing symptoms to up to seven days after getting sick. Children can be contagious for longer than seven days."
6. How can the spread of the influenza virus be prevented?  
While the single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated, the CDC does not know if the seasonal flu vaccine will protect against the swine flu virus. The CDC recommends these other ways to prevent the flu: "Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too; stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness; cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick; clean your hands. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth."
7. In previous years, what has the Church done in localities where the outbreak of Influenza is most significant?  
In those localities where the outbreak of the disease has been the most significant, bishops have introduced several liturgical adaptations in regard to such practices as the distribution of Holy Communion and the exchange of the Sign of Peace in order to limit the spread of contagion.
8. What measures should be taken in Roman Catholic liturgies in the United States of America now?  
Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene. Ministers of Holy Communion should be encouraged to wash their hands before Mass begins, or even to use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. They should instruct people who feel ill not to receive from the cup.

9. What about further adaptations or the restriction of options at Mass?  
The Diocesan Bishop should always be consulted regarding any changes or restriction of options in the celebration of Roman Catholic Liturgy. However, the need for the introduction of widespread liturgical adaptations for the prevention of the transmission of influenza in the dioceses of the United States of America is not evident at this time.
10. What is the Secretariat of Divine Worship doing to address this question?  
The Secretariat will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide the best advice possible to Diocesan Bishops and their Offices for Worship. The Secretariat likewise appreciates whatever information Diocesan Offices for Worship are able to provide concerning local conditions and the pastoral responses developed by Diocesan Bishops. Continuously updated information is available from the CDC at [www.CDC.gov/swineflu](http://www.CDC.gov/swineflu).

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## **YEAR FOR PRIESTS**

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

#### *INTRODUCE WITH THESE WORDS:*

“In this Year for Priests, (insert intercession here). We pray to the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, grant to your priests a sure knowledge of Your mercy and love. We pray to the Lord...

Grant, O Lord, that the men who have followed you as priests may be sustained by the prayers and service of the faithful whom they serve. We pray to the Lord...

For our priests, that their generous daily offering of self on behalf of the Church may be received as a pleasing sacrifice at the altar of the Most High. We pray to the Lord...

Eternal Shepherd, give your priests wisdom and courage that they may guide your people and defend them from all evil. We pray to the Lord...

Lord Jesus Christ, reveal to your priests the depths of love within your Sacred Heart. Lead them in ways of kindness and compassion for the souls entrusted to them. We pray to the Lord...

## LITURGICAL REMINDERS FOR SEPTEMBER

### Special days to note:

**Labor Day:** Each year on the first Monday in September, we mark the time when people around the U.S. reflect on their livelihood. Check the Lectionary, volume four, and the Sacramentary, for the special readings and prayers for this day.

**September 8:** Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Bless newborns and mothers who are expecting.

**September 14:** Feast of the Holy Cross or September 15, Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows: Be sure to anoint the members of your congregation who join their sufferings to Christ. Review the importance of the Sign of the Cross and the attention and reverence it deserve. With your school or religious education students, celebrate the evening with the Way of the Cross instead of Evening Prayer.

**September 21:** Feast of Saint Matthew: Review this special Gospel.

**September 23:** Memorial of Saint Pio of Pietreclina: Padre Pio is one of our new saints on the calendar. Share some of the stories of this Capuchin with your community.

**September 26:** Optional Memorial of Cosmas and Damian: many legends abound about these two saints, who may have been twins and physicians. Bless your health care workers and doctors.

**September 29:** Feast of the Archangels: Invite volunteers to a special blessing, appreciation, and reception for the “angel” work they do for your parish.