

FROM THE BISHOP

As Advent begins, we begin a formation period in all parishes of the diocese with respect to a new document of liturgical law. That document is called The General Instruction of the Roman Missal. It represents the first revision in twenty-five years on the manner of celebrating Eucharist.

Recall that the Council Fathers of Vatican II wanted a liturgy of the Roman Rite that would keep up with the times. The goal was to have a contemporary Roman Rite, universal but flexible enough to express the liturgy in various cultures. After twenty-five years of working with the current Missal, the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments decided to update and revise our current Missal. Our new Roman Missal is published only in Latin at this time. It will take several years to have the book translated into English and printed for parish use. Before that happens there will be a period of study and approval by the bishops of our country. The first section of the book, *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, contains liturgical laws and rubrics. This has been published and we have an English translation of these instructions. We now need to begin implementing these instructions as soon as possible.

During the month of October, we had a series of meetings with the priests, musicians, and liturgy committees of the diocese to introduce them to these new general instructions. Now we want to start a parish program of catechesis – or formation – concerning the new Roman Missal and its instructions. We will do this over a period of time, starting with the First Sunday of Advent and finishing with Pentecost Sunday. Here is where we ask the cooperation of all pastors and parishioners.

During December which is also a very busy month in parishes, materials pertaining to the who, what, when where and why of the Roman Missal will be sent to each parish. We ask that pastors and catechist share this material with all their parishioners.

Each month – from January through May – a newsletter will be sent to each parish. In it will be sufficient material on a series of topics to be used in the parish bulletin, at parish meetings, for pulpit announcements, in classrooms, and at discussion meetings. We would hope that each parish uses the materials in the newsletters in the sequence in which they are received. We are looking to a gradual implementation of these general instructions rather than have one day in which they all take place at once.

In the course of centuries, major revisions have occurred to the Roman liturgy. Since Vatican II much has happened in the world, in the Church, and in the prayer of the people. Adjustments must now be made with reference to the stability of the Roman liturgy and a sense of the unity of the praying community.

Unity is what Christ prayed for, “That they may be one.” We want to achieve a measure of unity in this diocese and in the universal Church. We ask that the personal preference of the faithful – both priests and laity – yield to common worship, yield to the unity of the praying Church.

The contents of the monthly newsletters are to be implemented in every parish according to the specific gifts and charisma of that parish. I ask for energy and creativity in sharing these new instructions with all members of the parish.

John Henry Cardinal Newman once said that: “To change is to grow; and to change often is to grow perfect.” As the chief liturgist of this diocese, I am asking that all parishes and all members embrace these new instructions, come to understand their meaning and that the liturgies in this local church may resonate with the liturgies of the universal Church to become one song of praise and thanks to our God who has called us to be one.

+Bishop Donald W. Trautman

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Today’s gospel reminds us that caring for the sick in our family is following in the footsteps of Jesus. The exhausting work of caring for “disease and illness” is sacred work.

GANNON UNIVERSITY will be having a Graduate and Adult Open House on Tuesday, December 10th from 4-7PM in the AJ Palumbo Academic Center. For more info call 814/871-7474 or 800/GANNON-U.

FROM THE PASTOR

- Last Wednesday we had over 150 people gathered here from all different faiths for our Ecumenical Service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sister Mary Andrew, Wally and the choir for the music, Mary Pope and her committee – Phyllis Marchini, Stephanie DiPlacido, Marilyn Balliett, Beth DiPaolo, Jan Tssario for organizing the reception and a great big thanks to our bakers – Jean George, Stephanie DiPlacido, Columbo Rocco, Marilyn Balliett, Beth DiPaolo, Karen Mancuso, Patti DiMarco, Mary Pope and Meg Flinn...

- Today is the PTC Craft Show from 10-6 in Geiger Hall...

- A few weeks ago we offered free BP screenings after the 7:30 & 9:00 Mass. We had 27 people stop to have their BP checked. We would like to thank our nurses: Rita Firch, Patti Cooney, Jeanne Maras, Peggy Laskey, Etta Strub, Sue Kuhn and Marilyn Balliett. We hope to offer this service again in the future, maybe more people will take advantage of the service – it never hurts to have your BP checked!...

- Since December 8th falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9th. The obligation to attend Mass is lifted by the Bishops of the United States. Our country is dedicated to the Patronage of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. We will celebrate three Masses in her honor 7:30, 9:00 and 5:15. Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1854...

- You may have notice the new security door in the hallway outside of the Parish Office. This will be locked during school hours so that the school will remain secure at all times. In this day and time we must make our students safety our main concern. If you need to access the school please go to the School Office or stop in the Parish Office and someone can help you. The door will be unlocked on the weekends...

- The canopy over the handicapped entrance on the East side of church was removed for safety reasons. The roof was sagging and was posing a threat to anyone who walked under it. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may have caused especially to our handicapped parishioners...

- The youth group of Blessed Sacrament will offer babysitting for parents on Saturday, December 14th from 8:00AM – 3:00PM in the Basement Meeting Room. Activities, games and snacks will be provided. Donations are accepted but not required. All proceeds will go toward their participation in the Journey to Emmaus Festival this Summer. So why not do some Christmas shopping, go out to breakfast or just stay at home, relax and enjoy the “quiet”!...

- Upcoming Advent Reconciliation Services: December 16th at St. Jude Parish, December 17th at Our Lady of Peace Parish and December 19th here at Blessed Sacrament. Services start at 7PM at all the parishes...

Happy Advent ~ Monsignor Magraw

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS During the Sundays in Advent there will be an opportunity for members of the community to take part in several different prayer experiences. Today the Children’s Choir of Blessed Sacrament School will lead us closer to the Feast of Christmas through music for the season. On Sunday, December 15th, Mr. Wallace Wiese will present a concert of sacred music for our meditation and reflection and on Sunday, December 22nd the Adult Choir will celebrate the Season of Advent with a series of songs and scripture readings. Each of these presentations will take place at 4:00PM in the church. All are invited to take time out to celebrate the Advent season through music.

GIVING TREE UPDATE Once again your generosity is amazing...a few tags still remain...please remember that adults need to feel Christmas joy, too! All gifts are due in the Parish Office no later than December 15th

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

at Noon – the earlier the better! Please wrap the gift and **securely** attach the tag. Thank You!!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated non-perishable food items and monetary donations for our Parish Food Bank. These will be distributed to our families during the holiday season.

**PARISH FAMILY
ST. VINCENT**

Virginia Hoffman, Joseph Barna, Robin Spalla,
Florence Jobes, Kelly Rafferty, John Olone, Lorena Doyle
HAMOT
Patrolman Dan Rossman, Gary Magyar, George Durovchic

Baptized into the Christian Community
through the waters of Baptism:
Rachael Cheyenne Wodarski
Daughter of Scott Horne and Marie Wodarski

Mass of Christian Burial was given to Christine Herron, Roy Hughes and Lisa Grignol. The prayers and sympathy of the parish were extended to their families. May they rest in peace.

BISHOP WATSON CHRISTIAN SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP For over fifteen years Mercyhurst College has honored the late Bishop Alfred M. Watson by offering a scholarship in his name to graduating high school seniors from each parish in the Erie Diocese. These scholarships are awarded to students on the basis of their home parish's pastor recommendation. They are reserved for students who exhibit characteristics of service to and concern for their community, and demonstrate financial aid need. The award has a value up to \$1,000 per year, provided the student meets all renewal requirements. If you are interested please contact Monsignor Magraw. Deadline is December 31st.

WOMEN OF BLESSED SACRAMENT will be singing Christmas carols at Presbyterian Lodge on December 9th at 6:30PM. You don't need a singing voice like Bing Crosby, just the Spirit of Christmas that you are willing to share with others! Men and women are welcome. We are also going to take then trays of homemade cookies. If you are interested in donating cookies or would like to join us singing, please contact Carrie Sciamanda 455-6125, Janice Peck 866-313 or Laurie Buzas 866-1014. There will be a short practice today after the 11:00AM Mass.

BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL NEWS

GIANT EAGLE APPLES FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM Please support our school by registering one of two ways. Visit the Web Site at <http://www.gianteagle.com> or by calling toll free 1-800-474-4777. You need your Giant Eagle advantage card number and the Blessed Sacrament school code 0096. As always ~ thank you for your support!

PLEASE JOIN US The 4 year-old Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade would like to invite you to attend their Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00PM in Geiger Hall. The program is entitled "O Holy Night" and the children will celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please come and celebrate with us.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS are needed at our school. If you are interested in substituting, please send your resume to the School Office – Attention Sheri Kurczewski.

MASS WITH THE BISHOP Bishop Trautman will be at Blessed Sacrament School this Friday to celebrate the Children's Liturgy at 8:45. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

LITURGY COMMITTEE is looking for a carpenter or anyone who is willing to help us build some stands for our Christmas display. Please contact Father Michael at the Parish Office.

CAFETERIA VOLUNTEERS

Mon 12/9 – Marge Wiertel, Gabriele Giusti, Karen Malec, Rose Cvecko, Jeanne Harrington, Mary Lou Hintz

Tues 12/10 – Marie Elsesser, Bill & Rose Schriefer, Mary Fiske, Pam Zbrzezny

Wed 12/11 – Joe & Barb McCormick, Sue Kelly, Joni Medvec, Becky Smith, Marilyn Konopka, Tina Malpiedi

Thurs 12/12 – Frank Sowieralski, Marianne Zimmermna, Diana Kramer, Lori Howland, Maggie Cacchione, Rose Agostini, Lorrie Schumacher

Fri 12/13 – Elaine Snyder, Marilyn Balliett, Tom Tssario, Jack Kohler, Tom Wilson

31 CLUB VOCATIONS – MASS REMINDERS

Monday, Dec 9 – Jack Hoffman

Tuesday, Dec 10 – Mary Zbach

Wednesday, Dec 11 – Carrie Sciamanda

Thursday, Dec 12 – Eleanor Fratus, Mary Alice Haibach

Friday, December 13 – Ed Zbach, Mary Luciano, Theresa DeDad

Saturday, December 14 – Joanne Holmes

Sunday, December 15 – Bob Snyderwine



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for John Marcoline from Mrs. Florence Stachera.



Monday, December 9 – Immaculate Conception

7:30 +Joseph Anysz / Wife - Ann

9:00 +Concetta Coy / Family [Birthday]

5:15 +Joseph Grack / Louise & Kathleen Cioccio

Tuesday, December 10 – Advent Weekday

7:00 +Carl Dallmeyer / Mr & Mrs Ronald DeWolf

8:00 +Phyllis Mannarino / Joe & Mary Ann Lican

Wednesday, December 11 – St. Damascus

7:00 +Betty Niebauer / Pat Monacello

8:00 +Adolph Bernardini / Daughter [Anniversary]

Thursday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 +All Souls / People of the Parish

8:00 +John Heher / B S Ladies Bowling League

11:30 +Deceased Members of SAGE

Friday, December 13 – St. Lucy

7:00 +Anthony Pizzi / Family

8:45 +Patrick DeMatteo / Mr & Mrs Fiore Leone

Saturday, December 14 – Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

5:15 +Robert Gilmore Knoll / Jane & Fred Taylor

Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

7:30 *People of the Parish

9:00 +Paul Ginkel / Family [Anniversary]

11:00 +Michael Terella / Wife – Emma [Wedding Anniversary]

7:30 +Margaret Chardeen / Patti & Joe Quagrello

SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT - DEC 1

Weekly Need:	\$ 11,400.00
Adult Offering:	\$ 7,479.00 – 544 envelopes
Loose Collection:	\$ 489.87
Youth Offering:	\$ <u>50.95</u> – 75 envelopes
Total:	\$ 8,019.82

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

“Celebrating Yesterday, Creating Tomorrow”

\$750,000 Parish Target Goal

\$526,720.74 Pledged to Date

\$159,946.53 Paid to Date

688 Pledges

Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.

With everyone's help, we can make it.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

During this past week some of our children noted on their Church envelopes ways they shared their time and talents: "I stayed with Grandma while Grandpa was away, I helped Grandma take care of her sick cat, I helped dad clean, I prayed for the poor and needy children, I played with my baby cousin, I helped my daddy when he was sick, I helped my mom and dad decorate the Christmas tree, I helped mom and dad get out the manger and decorate." We thank them for sharing their time, talent, and treasures by using their Church envelopes.