

RESOURCES FOR LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

There are a variety of resources available for those in schools or parishes who are involved in the preparation of Eucharistic celebrations. Chief among these are the official liturgical documents of the Church. Because these provide sound guidance in keeping with our Catholic tradition, liturgical planners would do well to be acquainted with them.

The *Directory for Masses with Children (DMC)* acknowledges that the Church must show a special concern for children and offers foundational principles for the adaptation of the liturgy for children so that they may participate in it more fully and meaningfully. While recognizing the need for adaptations according to age, psychological development and social situations of children, the *DMC* makes clear that the resulting celebrations are not entirely different rites. “It is always necessary to keep in mind that these Eucharistic celebrations must lead children toward the celebration of Mass with adults, especially the Masses at which the Christian community must come together on Sundays.” (*DMC*, #21)

Moreover, since special Eucharistic celebrations for children are meant to lead young people to participate in the liturgical life of the parish, liturgical planners should avoid creating the desire for novelty or other expectations that can never be met in regular parish liturgy.

Beyond Eucharistic liturgies, schools and parishes often engage in communal prayer services for various reasons throughout the year. The *Book of Blessings (BB)*—another official liturgical document containing an array of blessings, including the Order of Blessing for Teachers and Students, the Order of Blessing for a Catechetical Meeting or Prayer Meeting and many more—indicates that even in these celebrations, liturgical planners need to seek ways of strengthening the connection with the Sunday Eucharistic liturgy. “Due attention must also be paid to the character proper to the liturgical season, in order that the minister’s introductory comments and the people’s prayers and intercessions will be linked with the annual cycle of the mysteries of Christ.” (*BB*, # 34)

Church Documents

The Liturgy Documents, Vol. 1: A Parish Resource 4th edition. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 2004. (Contains a variety of documents including Directory of Masses with Children, the latest version of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Music in Catholic Worship, and more)

The Liturgy Documents, Vol. 2: A Parish Resource. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1999. (Contains Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities, Plenty Good Room: The Spirit and Truth of African American Catholic Worship, and more)

The Rites of the Catholic Church, Vol. 1. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1990.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lectionary for Masses with Children. New York, NY: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1993.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Book of Blessings. New York, NY: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1989.

National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Catholic Household of Blessings and Prayers. Washington, DC: 1987.

Additional Resources

Bick, Margaret. Preparing to Celebrate in Schools. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1996.

Haas, David. Increase our Faith: Parish Prayer Services for Whole Community Catechesis. Mystic, CT: Twenty-third Publications, 2004.

Huck, Gabe et al. Preparing Liturgy for Children and Children for Liturgy. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1989.

Hynes, Mary Ellen. Companion to the Calendar: A Guide to the Saints and Mysteries of the Christian Calendar. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1993.

Mazar, Peter. School Year, Church Year: Customs and Decorations for the Classroom. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1994.

- - -. and Robert Piercy. A Guide to the Lectionary for Masses with Children. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1993. (Includes the Directory for Masses with Children and the Introduction to the Lectionary for Masses with Children.)

McMahon Jeep, Elizabeth. Children's Daily Prayer 2005-2006. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 2005.

- - -. The Welcome Table: Planning Masses with Children. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1982.

- - -. Blessings and Prayers through the Year: A Resource for School and Parish. Chicago, IL: Liturgical Training Publications, 1999. (Includes 2 music CDs).

Paprocki, Joe and D. Todd Williamson. Let the Mystery Lead You: Bringing Catechesis and Liturgy Together. Mystic, CT: Twenty-third Publications, 2002.

Vos, Joan Patano and Timothy Vos. Celebrating School Liturgies: Guidelines for Planning. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1991.

Zimmerman, Joyce. Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration and Catechesis for Sundays and Solemnities, Year A. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2005.