

Press Release

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FROM: The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

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NATIONAL MEETING OF LITURGISTS FOCUSES ON THE MULTICULTURAL DIMENSION OF THE CHURCH [FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

127 delegates from 77 dioceses gathered in Portland, Oregon, October 11-14, 2011, for the annual National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. The meeting, jointly sponsored by the Federation of Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship (BCDW) assembled diocesan Directors of Worship and members of diocesan Liturgical Commissions to identify national and regional priorities in the area of worship, and to provide an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among participants, and for prayerful celebrations of the liturgy. Within the week's program was a Study Day, the theme of which was *Strangers No Longer in the Household of God*. Rita Thiron, Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Lansing, facilitated discussion following presentations that focused on liturgy and spirituality from four cultures and through four different lenses. Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA looked at Native American spirituality and liturgy from an experiential perspective. Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP explored Asian Pacific liturgy and spirituality from an academic perspective. Rev. Allan F. Deck, SJ presented a magisterial understanding of Hispanic liturgy and spirituality, while Sister Eva Marie Luma, SSS approached the question from African American pastoral ministry perspective.

In his annual report, FDLC Chair, the Reverend Monsignor John H. Burton, announced that the Board of the USCCB Commission on Certification and Accreditation (USCCB/CCA) had granted approval of the national certification standards and procedures for a period of seven years that had been prepared by the Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers (ACLEM) of which the FDLC is a partnering member. Archbishop Gregory Aymond, attending the National Meeting for the first time as Chair of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship, affirmed the work of ACLEM.

During the annual banquet, the FDLC bestowed its highest honor, the McManus Award, to Fr. Anscar Chupungco, OSB for his contributions to pastoral liturgy by way of his research and writings on inculturation, liturgy, and theology.

During the meeting the delegates adopted three Position Statements and one Executive Committee Resolution:

Position Statement 2011/01

Chant Notation in the Body of the Text of the *Misal Romano, Tercera Edición*

Vote: 75.28%; for 62; against 25; abstain 2. total votes 89

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Preamble

- Whereas the *Misal Romano, tercera edición* for use in the United States is anticipated in the near future;
- Whereas the current *Misal Romano* does not include chant/music notation in the body of the text;
- Whereas there is great need to provide quality ritual books and resources in the Spanish language for use in the United States;
- Whereas the *Roman Missal, third edition* (English) will include chant notation for the Ordinary and Propers of the Mass in the body of the English text;
- Whereas it is a matter of equality and justice to provide comparable liturgical resources for use in the United States in languages other than English;

Statement

It is the position of the delegates to the 2011 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that

1. the FDLC Executive Committee
2. work with the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship
3. to ensure the inclusion of music/chant notation
4. for the Order of Mass
5. and Propers of the Mass
6. in the body of the text
7. of the anticipated *Misal Romano, tercera edición*.

We request that a timeline and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by 31 January 2012.

Position Statement 2011/02

Structure and Organization of the FDLC

Vote: 91.30%; for 84; against 6; abstain 2. total votes 92

Preamble

- Whereas, there is a need to continually visit the mission of any organization, to establish short and long-term goals in light of that mission, and to evaluate its progress in light of those goals;
- Whereas, most organizations and businesses routinely examine strategies and structure so as to remain vital and effective;
- Whereas, there are new and emerging technologies and communications tools (e.g., Skype and webinars);
- Whereas, staffing and board structure must enable an organization to complete projects in a timely manner;
- Whereas, face-to-face committee meetings are challenging when members are scattered across the country;
- Whereas, a healthy organization requires strong leadership and regular communication with its membership;
- Whereas, this Federation is more than just an annual national meeting, yet great time and resources are devoted to it;

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Whereas, some by-laws and national meeting processes seem outdated;
Whereas, regional meetings seem to be productive and effective means of networking;
Whereas, the current model of operation is at least twenty-eight years old and our best efforts to make an old model work have, in some respects, limited productivity and progress;
Whereas financial circumstances have impacted the work of the Federation and future sources of income have not been adequately developed;
Whereas the landscape of liturgical renewal has changed in recent times causing some members to question *where* we want to be, *who* we want to be, and *what* we want to be in five years;

Statement

It is the position of the delegates to the 2011 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that:

1. the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors secure the services of an independent management consultant
2. to examine the FDLC's organizational system and procedures
3. and to explore the future finances, goals, strategies and structures of the Federation.
4. We further request that the results of this study be reported to our membership at the October 2012 national meeting.

We request that a timeline and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by 31 January, 2012.

Position Statement 2011/03

Consultation on the Rite of Marriage

Vote: 96.77%; for 90; against 1; abstain 2. total votes 93

PREAMBLE

Whereas the new translation of the Roman Missal will affect other sacramental liturgies in which the faithful participate regularly;
Whereas the second *editio typica* of the Rite of Marriage (1991) awaits translation;
Whereas this sacrament is among the most used in pastoral ministry;
Whereas there are varied customs and accretions that continue to attach themselves to this rite as it is presently celebrated in parishes;

Statement

It is the position of the delegates to the 2011 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that:

1. the FDLC board of directors facilitate a consultation
2. among Federation members to be completed by June 2012
3. regarding possible adaptations to the Rite of Marriage for the United States
4. to be shared with the BCDW for their consideration in preparing the revised rite
5. and for its thorough catechesis.

We request that a timeline and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by 31 January, 2012.

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FDLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ECR 2011-1

Vote: 97.89%; for 93; against 2; abstain 0. total votes 95

PREAMBLE

Whereas “Jesus Christ, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’; in the same way also the cup, after supper saying ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.”

(1 Cor. 11: 23-26)

Whereas the Eucharistic Liturgy, as revised under the norms established by the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, calling for full participation of all the faithful, allowed for celebrations in which more of the liturgical assembly could receive the Precious Blood within Mass;

Whereas individual Diocesan Bishops were given authority to establish particular norms for the distribution and reception of the Precious Blood, such that Communion under both species has become custom in most parishes of the U.S.;

Whereas the GIRM (no. 281) holds that “Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds, for in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident.”

Whereas U.S. norms have been solidly established to ensure the distribution and reception of Holy Communion under both kinds, reverently and without profanation;

Whereas the 1984 indult allowing Diocesan Bishops to establish norms for Communion under both kinds in his own diocese has been abrogated and then superseded by the U.S. adaptations of the GIRM giving the same authority to Diocesan Bishops;

Whereas the only way that many persons with Celiac-Sprue disease may receive Holy Communion is by receiving the Precious Blood;

Statement

It is the position of the delegates to the 2011 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that:

1. we, the FDLC membership, recommit ourselves to “fully support the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds” (cf. PS 2005b) in our own Arch/Dioceses;
2. The FDLC Board of Directors affirm the U.S. adaptations for the distribution and reception of Holy Communion under both kinds through the website and newsletter, e.g., promoting existing materials on this liturgical practice;
3. the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship seek to clarify the norms for reception and distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds, e.g., reprinting the seven Q & A on this liturgical practice from the Volume XLII October 2006 Committee on the Liturgy Newsletter and the six further Q & A from Volume XLV, January 2009 (cf., PS 2005c).