



NewsLetter

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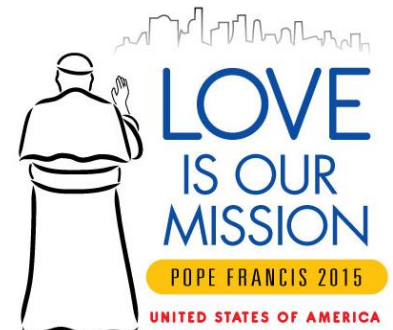
Volume LI

June 2015

Liturgical Schedule of Pope Francis' Visit to the United States

Pope Francis will undertake an Apostolic Journey to the United States and United Nations on September 22-27, 2015, visiting Washington, DC, New York City, and Philadelphia. This visit takes place on the occasion of the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

During the papal visit, there will be six liturgical events: two each in Washington, New York City, and Philadelphia. An interreligious prayer service will also take place in New York City. For the benefit of our readers, the Pope's liturgical schedule is presented with additional notes:



Wednesday, September 23 – Washington, DC

11:30 AM – Midday Prayer with the Bishops of the United States
Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle

Texts used from the *Liturgy of the Hours* will be from the current day (Wednesday, Week I), and will be predominantly in English, with the introduction and conclusion in Latin. The Holy Father will give his homily to the Bishops after the reading.

4:15 PM – Mass of Canonization of Blessed Junípero Serra

East Portico, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Mass formulary and readings will be those of a Votive Mass in honor of Blessed Junípero Serra. The Collect is proper (as found on July 1 in the Proper of Saints, but from this point forward substituting the word “Saint” for “Blessed”), and the other prayers are drawn from the Common of Pastors: For Missionaries.

The majority of the Mass will be celebrated in Spanish, with Pope Francis offering his homily in both Spanish and English. One of the Scripture readings will be in a language close to that spoken by some of the Native American communities evangelized by Blessed Junípero.

Thursday, September 24 – New York City

6:45 PM – Evening Prayer with Priests, Men and Women Religious
Cathedral of Saint Patrick

The texts of Vespers will be those of the current day (Thursday, Week I), with a mixture of English, Spanish, and Latin. The Holy Father's homily will occur after the short reading. In lieu of the responsory, the Cathedral choir plans to sing the motet “Laudate Dominum” by Mozart.

Friday, September 25 – New York City

11:30 AM – Interreligious Prayer Service

National September 11 Memorial and Museum

This service, though not strictly liturgical, will include the prayer of remembrance first used by Pope Benedict XVI during his April 2008 visit to Ground Zero. In addition, prayers for peace will be offered in multiple languages according to the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian, and Muslim traditions. The Kaddish (from the Jewish tradition) will be sung, as will a choral piece by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim.

6:00 PM – Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice

Madison Square Garden

The second option of the Collect will be used, but neither the *Gloria* nor the Creed will be said. Musical selections will include both classical and modern pieces in a variety of languages. The First Reading will be in Spanish, and the Gospel in English. Eucharistic Prayer II will be prayed in Latin.

Saturday, September 26 – Philadelphia

10:30 AM – Votive Mass of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul

Readings for this Votive Mass will be in Spanish and English, and Eucharistic Prayer I in Latin will be used. The official song of the 2015 World Meeting of Families, “Sound the Bell of Holy Freedom,” will be sung as the recessional hymn.

Sunday, September 27 – Philadelphia

4:00 PM – Concluding Mass of the World Meeting of Families

Benjamin Franklin Parkway

Mass texts and readings will be those of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The *Gloria* and Creed will be sung in Latin. The first reading will be in Vietnamese, the second in Spanish, and the Gospel in English. Eucharistic Prayer III will be prayed in Latin.

June 2015 Meeting of the Committee on Divine Worship

The Committee on Divine Worship met in St. Louis, Missouri on June 8, 2015, prior to the USCCB plenary meeting. After hearing reports from the Chairmen of the Committee and the Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish, and from the Secretariat of Divine Worship, the members discussed several questions and upcoming projects.

Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition

As part of the ongoing project of preparing a new English edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the members reviewed proposed modifications to a revised translation of the Old and New Testament canticles. That action item was later voted upon during the plenary meeting, although the result was inconclusive due to the absence of some Bishops. A mail ballot is underway to arrive at a final decision regarding the revised canticles.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of introducing a second cycle of patristic and ecclesiastical readings for the Office of Readings, which is an option permitted by the *General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours* (cf. nos. 161-162). There is no official schema for such a cycle, though the Holy See has published a draft list of readings, and several other Conferences of Bishops and religious communities have produced their own versions of this supplement. The members of the Committee felt that although this material might be advantageous for spiritual reading and would introduce greater variety in the Divine Office, the practical considerations involved in the selection and translation of texts would add considerable delay to the completion of the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition*. For this reason, the Committee decided to postpone the project indefinitely.

Future Liturgical Books

As noted in the previous edition of the *Newsletter*, the new translation of the *Order of Confirmation* has received the *recognitio* of the Holy See and is now being prepared for publication. The Committee members noted the frequency with which they celebrate Confirmation in Spanish, and therefore decided that the production of a bilingual English-Spanish edition will take priority over an English-only edition. Members of the Committee also approved moving forward on two new liturgical books: a “Book of the Chair” to be used in conjunction with the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, and a Supplement to the *Lectiary for Mass*.

Since the 2011 publication of the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, the Secretariat has received numerous comments on the unwieldiness of the book, particularly for younger altar servers, due to its substantial size and weight. To make it easier for priests to lead the appropriate parts of the Mass from the presidential chair, it has been suggested that a smaller book would be useful. Two potential options were discussed: a book with excerpts from the *Roman Missal* containing only texts used for Sundays and Solemnities, or a book with excerpts containing only the texts that are spoken when the priest is at the chair. After some discussion, including a review of the results of an informal survey conducted by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), the Committee endorsed the publication of the latter option, a Book of the Chair. It was noted that other Conferences of Bishops have likewise undertaken a similar project. Before the book can be printed, however, the specific details of its contents must be approved by the Committee and the body of Bishops, and subsequently confirmed by the Holy See.

The *Lectiary for Mass* Supplement will consolidate into one book the readings and psalms for the expanded Pentecost Vigil Mass (first suggested as an option in 1988 and formally inserted into the *Missale Romanum* in 2008), as well as the suggested readings for liturgical celebrations entered into the General Roman Calendar and the U.S. proper calendar since 2001. It will also include the many readings available for the Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life.

Proper Calendar

Three matters concerning the U.S. Proper Calendar were brought before the Committee for its consideration. One bishop requested the inscription of Blessed John Henry Newman, Priest, and another requested the inscription of Blessed Oscar Romero, Bishop and Martyr. The Committee judged that since neither Blessed lived or ministered in the United States, and since their celebrations had not yet been inscribed in a sufficient number of diocesan proper calendars, the time was not yet appropriate to request their inscription into the national calendar.

Committee members also considered the possibility of inscribing the Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest on the U.S. calendar. This proposed feast day, to be celebrated on the Thursday after Pentecost, was offered to the world’s Conferences of Bishops in 2012 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments as a possible addition to local liturgical calendars. After some discussion, and after review of the recent Green Book text of translations issued by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the members agreed that a national celebration was not warranted at this time. Bishops will still be given the opportunity to offer comments and suggestions on the translation, as ICEL continues to work toward a definitive English translation of the text for other interested countries.

Other Matters

The Committee also approved the drafting of an expanded Mass formulary for the Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, approved sending to the body of Bishops a future action item requesting their permission to begin drafting a new edition of the *National Statutes for the Catechumenate*, and gave preliminary approval to a National Shrine application and authorized a site visit.

The next meeting of the Committee on Divine Worship is scheduled for November 15, 2015 in Baltimore.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Life of the Church

The purpose of the booklet *Holy Orders*, by Jorge Cardinal Medina Estévez, is succinctly set forth in the foreword by Mauro Cardinal Piacenza: “To know what the priest is and consequently to know why he serves, to reveal his identity and thus to understand his usefulness is something valuable, as much for those who are near to him as also for those who look at him from afar” (pg. 2). Given the various kinds of confusion regarding the priesthood in our time, it is not only something valuable, but even urgently necessary, that Catholics be well grounded in their understanding of this gift of God to the Church.

Even if it does not typically have the usual definitions one finds in the *Catechism* or in a work of fundamental theology, the New Testament nevertheless provides us with many passages that refer to the establishment of Holy Orders and to the way it was exercised in the early Church. *Holy Orders* draws our attention to many of these passages, and provides helpful commentary on their significance. Attention is also paid to several of the more significant writings on the Sacrament by some of the earliest Fathers of the Church, which helps illuminate the antiquity and the consistency of the Church’s teaching on the subject. Together, the writings in Scripture and in the Fathers provide an essential foundation for a mature grasp of this Sacrament.

Cardinal Medina observes that the office of Holy Orders, like other public positions in society, can be viewed “from the perspective of ‘power,’ ‘status,’ ‘career,’ ‘moving up the ladder,’ and ‘economic advantages’” (pg. 18). In contrast to these, however, he emphasizes the one thing that should be at the heart of the spirituality of every man who receives this Sacrament: service. This service has many characteristics, and these ought to include humility, a strong work ethic, a keen sense of responsibility, obedience to authority, and availability to those in need. These characteristics can be summed up as *pastoral charity*, defined as “a form of love that characterizes the care that a good shepherd has for his flock” (pg. 23).

Those in Holy Orders have certain duties and responsibilities in the life of the Church. Drawing from the teachings of the Second Vatican Council (particularly *Lumen Gentium*, no. 20), those responsibilities are explained under the threefold offices of teaching, sanctifying, and governing. These duties are exercised in different ways by bishops, priests, and deacons, those ordained to the three grades of Holy Orders. Of these three offices, Cardinal Medina offers inspiring words regarding the sanctifying role, a responsibility that is especially close to the hearts of all those who have a particular love for the sacred liturgy:

All of us are called to render worship to God, recognizing his sovereignty, conforming our entire life to his commandments and celebrating the liturgical rites by which we express our loving adoration and filial relation with him. All Christian life possesses, therefore, by its very nature, a dimension of worship of God. (pg. 9)

The worship of the Old Covenant is fulfilled in that of the New, and the Sacrament of Holy Orders is a key instrument and unique part of this fulfillment. The particular liturgical duties of bishops, priests, and deacons are situated within that understanding.

As Holy Orders is a “constitutive element” of the Church (pg. 5), Cardinal Medina’s urgings with regard to the encouragement of vocations and his wise words about the discernment of the call are timely and practical. These reflections, and the booklet as a whole, provide rich food for thought for those preparing for Holy Orders and for those already ordained, and also provide sound instruction for all the faithful.



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The Sacrament Series, written from a pastoral perspective by Jorge Cardinal Medina Estévez, provides the reader with a jumping-off point for reflection and prayerful study, and is aimed toward families and those interested in increasing their knowledge of the faith. The entire seven-booklet series – or each individual booklet – is available from USCCB Communications at store.USCCB.org/product-p/7-505.htm.