EASTER SEASON
IN OUR HOME
In the early Church, the Easter season was seen as one great Sunday, the great fifty days of celebration prolonging the joy of Easter Sunday.

While liturgically the season is still the greatest of the year, in practice it is not always seen in this light. This issue of the Bulletin offers many positive ideas and suggestions for family prayer and practices during the Easter season. These are based on the daily liturgy of these days.

Bulletin 103 may be used each year by families, communities, and other groups. It will help them to share more fully in the graces of the great fifty days of the Easter season.
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A calendar for the Easter season from 1986 to 2005 is given on page 119.
EASTER SEASON AT HOME

Celebrating the fifty days

Paschal mystery: Every liturgical season celebrates the paschal mystery or Easter mystery of Jesus Christ: his suffering, dying, and rising are seen as one great act of God's saving love for us. We celebrate this great love in a special way every Sunday, the Lord's day. The greatest Sunday of the year is Easter, the feast of our Lord's resurrection.

A Season of Joy

Easter cycle: Gradually, over the centuries, the Church has surrounded Easter Sunday with other rites and celebrations and seasons in order to provide it with a fitting setting. The Easter cycle has three stages:

• Preparation: We prepare for Easter by taking our full part in the season of Lent. This is a time centered on baptism and repentance. Catechumens prepare for their baptism, and the rest of us prepare to renew our baptismal promises of dying with Christ to sin and living with him for God. All members of the body of Christ are called to do penance for sin, to repent, and to be converted; we are invited to pray more fervently, to listen more often and more closely to God's word, to do penances that touch us and our community. (See Liturgy constitution, nos. 109-110 [109-110].)

• Celebration: The center of the Easter season is the Easter triduum, the three days from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening. In these days we celebrate the suffering, dying, and rising of Jesus, and our sharing in this mystery through the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, eucharist). The paschal fast of Friday and Saturday leads us into the celebration of the Easter vigil. The days of the triduum are the most solemn of the year, and reflect on one another to help us to grasp the great mystery being celebrated.

Continuation: After celebrating the sacraments of initiation at the Easter vigil, the Christian people want to take some time — seven weeks, a week of weeks, fifty days — to reflect on and taste the joys of Easter. All believers, newly baptized and veteran members alike, listen anew to the gospel message. All are invited to recognize once again the presence of Jesus and his Spirit in this community of faith and love. All are challenged to live out more fully their baptismal promises of dying with Christ to sin, and living with him for God. Thus the Easter season is a time of continuing catechesis, of growing in faith, of sharing and deepening our love.

Spirit of the Easter season: These fifty days prolong the joys we feel because of Jesus' victory over death and our sharing in this victory:

- **Praise and thanks:** We give glory and honor and thanks to our God who has raised Jesus from the dead. We sing praises because Jesus is recognized as the Son of God, our brother and our savior.

- **Alleluia!** During the Easter season, our constant song is Alleluia! This Hebrew word means “Praise to God!” We find it in the Hebrew scriptures (see Ps. 113: 1, 9) and in the New Testament (see Rev. 19: 1, 3, 6). See Alleluia in practice, in Bulletin 97, pages 62-63. Many settings are given in CBW II, and may be sung at home during prayer and at mealtimes.

- **Remembering our baptism:** The whole of the Easter season is baptismal in its thrust. We reflect on what God has begun in us through baptism. We try each day to understand what God is calling us to be. By personal prayer and action as well as in public worship, we are proclaiming to the world that we are the baptized and faithful followers of Jesus, who has won his battle over death and sin, and is continuing his victory in our lives.

- **Sharing in the Easter mystery:** We share in Christ's dying and rising in many ways: by our baptism, in each eucharist, in each liturgical celebration, in our daily living, in our prayers, in our sufferings, in all we do for God and for others.

- **Living out our love:** During the Easter season we recognize God's love for us and give thanks. We try to respond to this love by putting it into practice in our daily living (see the collect for Saturday in the seventh week in the Easter season).

These and other echoes of the meaning of the Easter season are reflected in the prefaces used during this season: see prefaces 21-28 (in *Sunday Mass Book*, pages 610-615). A wealth of other texts may be explored in the seasonal Masses, scripture readings, and in the liturgy of the hours.

**People of the risen Lord:** In the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus, we have the beginning of the new creation. We are called to be men and women who reflect and share the new life of Jesus. With him we have died to sin, and with him we have risen to new life for God. We are to put away the things of
death and sin, and to strive after the higher gifts, the things of heaven. Our lives are to be the leaven of our society, to reflect and share the love of God for all. Our hearts, filled with the life and joy of the Holy Spirit, are to reach out to all in forgiving love. Our love for one another is to be a sign to all that we are the followers of our risen Lord, who calls all people to live their life in its fullness (Jn. 10: 10).

A Time for Catechesis

The Easter season is a time for catechesis in the Christian community. All believers, both those initiated at the Easter vigil and veteran members of the Church, are invited to grow in their spiritual life by coming closer to Jesus.

Completing initiation: For those who were baptized at the Easter vigil, the seven weeks of the Easter season are a period of postbaptismal catechesis or "mystagogy." The newly baptized begin to settle into the life of the Christian community. (See Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, nos. 37-40 [2364-2367].) This process involves several steps:

- **Taking part in the eucharist**, where the whole community prays for them frequently;
- **Reflecting on the gospel**, especially in the Lord’s day Masses;
- **Carrying out works of love**, showing their faith by practical deeds (see James 1: 22-27);
- **Ministering to the community**, and sharing their God-given gifts with others in a spirit of Christian service. (See Bulletin 91, pages 242-243.)

Members of the community who were baptized in former years, and those received into full communion this Easter, also share in these liturgies. Inspired by the fresh faith and enthusiasm of the newly baptized, they seek to come closer to Christ by their worship, their prayer, and their good works.

Families are invited to share in this time of renewal by taking part in the liturgies and activities of the season:

- **Sunday Masses**: Notes on each of the Sundays are given in this Bulletin to help people prepare for the celebration, and to invite them to enter more fully into the spirit of the Lord’s day celebration.
- **Daily liturgies**: The notes on the daily Mass will also provide help for the celebration of daily prayer. Families may wish to take part in one or two

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2 "Mystagogy" means the interpretation of mysteries. The word is derived from the Greek μυστήριος, one initiated in the mysteries, and ἀγωγεῖν, to lead. We still have to find some good English terms for the technical words used in the process of Christian initiation.
celebrations each week; parishes and other communities could try to schedule and encourage such services.

- **Personal and family prayer:** The references and notes on each day can be used as the basis for reflection and prayer.

- **Song:** Families can add a sung *Alleluia* or other Easter song to their prayer, meal prayers, and other activities.

**Handing on the memory:** Parents and other adults share their faith with their children first of all by living it. Our faith is shared when we celebrate it well in the Church’s liturgy. As well, we can tell the Christian story to children at special times: during the Easter triduum, we can retell the story of Jesus’ suffering, dying, and rising, and of the way his followers came to believe in their risen Lord and recognize him in their gatherings. During the Easter season, the daily gospel reading provides a basis for telling of God’s love for us in our own words. A reflection for each day’s gospel passage is given in pages 87-116, helping us to tell the story of Jesus simply and with faith.

Each year at the Passover supper in each Jewish home, the youngest child asks: “What do these things mean? Why are we doing them?” (See Exod. 12: 26-27; Exod. 13: 8-10; Deut. 6: 20-25.) The parents hand on the memory vividly: *We were there!* Similarly, in our homes we may share our faith and love with our children by telling them the story of Jesus and his love for us, so that they may believe that he is the Son of God, our savior, and have eternal life in his name (see Jn. 20: 31).

* * *

**Helpful reading:**

*Easter season,* in Bulletin 97, pages 59-61; on the triduum, see pages 26-58.

*Pasch to Pentecost:* The Liturgy of Paschal tide, by Vincent Ryan (1977, Veritas Publications, Dublin).


USING THIS BULLETIN

This issue may be used in parishes in a variety of ways each year for people involved in the catechumenate, and for others:

* As a gift to each person baptized or received into full communion at the Easter vigil;
* For catechists and sponsors;
* For teachers in the school;
* For families and friends of the new members of the community;
* For members of the parish liturgy committee, for the leader of the choir, and for others responsible for liturgical music and ministry.
Seasonal activities

The ideas in this article are mainly for families to develop in their homes, so that we may express our faith in the actions and activities we carry on. They are related to what we are doing in church during this season, and in this way we may prolong our celebrations of joy because the Lord has risen and is present among us. In the Northern hemisphere we are in spring, and its flowers and signs of new life can add to our joyful festivities.

Easter triduum: The 72 hours between Holy Thursday evening and Easter Sunday evening are reserved for community worship and family prayer. These are not to be days for shopping, travelling, recreation, or watching sports on TV. On Thursday evening we celebrate; on Friday and Saturday, we reflect, while taking part in the paschal fast. Saturday evening and Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Activities During the Easter Season

A special candle: During this season, we see the Easter candle in church lighted for all our celebrations. It is a reminder of the presence of Jesus among us when we gather. Each home may wish to prepare a large white candle for the season. It can be decorated with gold or silver threads, with glittering stones, or a bright yellow or red ribbon, or in other fitting ways.

On Easter Sunday, at breakfast or dinner, when the family is gathered, this prayer of blessing may be offered:

Blessed are you, God of the universe:
you give us light and life.
Let this candle remind us of Jesus,
who is the light of the world
and our brother present here with us.
Blessed are you, our God, for ever.

All sing or say Amen!

Between Easter and Pentecost, the candle can be lit on Saturday and Sunday evenings, and on other special occasions. After the candle is burning, all may sing an Alleluia or another hymn: see pages 73 and 81, below. It is always appropriate to sing about the light of Christ: see CBW II, nos. 177 or 178. Some families may wish to light the candle in silence; others may wish to use the above prayer, or prepare one of their own.
**Water blessed in memory of our baptism:** We may bring home a container of the Easter water blessed during the Easter vigil, and use it to make the sign of the cross on ourselves and our children. Some families may wish to prepare their own Easter water.

A bowl or container of water is prepared. All gather around, and one member leads the prayer:

*Loving God, Father of Jesus,*
*bless + this water,*
*and let it remind us of your love.*
*You have called us in Jesus*
*and have made us your people of light in baptism.*
*Help us to live as your beloved children,*
*and to share your love with all.*

*We ask this gift*
*through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

All sing or say  *Amen!*

The leader may sprinkle all with the water, or each person may dip his or her fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross. If desired, an *Alleluia* may be sung, or CBW II, no. 195.

**Greeting and response:** Ukrainian Christians greet one another in this way during the Easter season:¹

Greeting:  *Christ has risen.*
Response:  *Indeed he has risen.*

A family may want to include this in their prayer, or use it as a greeting at various times in the Easter season.

**Music and singing:** As well as the Easter hymns, there are many brief songs and acclamations that a family may sing as part of their activities and prayers during the great fifty days. They may prefer to use the same one or two throughout the season. Any of the following short pieces may be sung from CBW II:

* *Alleluia:* see nos. 351-358, 191.
* Acclamations: see nos. 6-7, 11-13, 15; or nos. 632-633, in union with the Eastern Churches.
* A solemn *Amen* may be sung at the end of any prayer: see nos. 384-395.

¹ See *The Byzantine Ukrainian Rite* (1975, CCC, Ottawa): page 74.
Psalm refrains: These may be sung alone, or with the psalm being read or sung, according to the family's talents. Any of the seasonal psalms may be used: see nos. 199-200, 204-218. Or another suitable psalm may be chosen, such as Ps. 117 (no. 428) or Ps. 100 (nos. 425-426).

Flowers: When arranging flowers or plants at home or church or elsewhere, indoors or out, we may say this simple prayer of praise:

Blessed are you, Lord our God:
you have given us these beautiful flowers.     [plants]
Blessed are you for ever.     Amen!

Seasonal blessings: Traditional blessings during the Easter season include these:

- Blessing of home and family: The parents, grandparents, or one of the children may lead this prayer on any appropriate occasion or gathering during the Easter season. The family Easter candle is lighted (see page 72, above).

  Jesus, our Lord and our brother,
  look on us as we gather around this light.
  Bless us with your love,
  and help us to be faithful to you.
  Keep us living in your joy,
  for you are our risen Lord.

  All glory and praise are yours,
  now and always and for ever.

  All sing or say     Amen!

  Then all may make the sign of the cross with Easter water; in some homes, the parents may make the sign of the cross with the water on the foreheads of their children. (Another prayer is given on page 91, below.)

- Blessing of festive foods: This blessing may be prayed on Easter Sunday or at any time during the great fifty days. The food to be blessed is arranged with the Easter candle in the middle. All gather around for the prayer led by a family member:

  All honor and praise and glory are yours,
  Lord Jesus, our brother.
  We praise you for your victory over death,
  and we ask you to protect us in your love.

  Bless + this food as a sign of God's great love for us,
  and let us rejoice in your name.
  Help us to share our gifts with others
  as generously as you share your love with us.
All glory is yours, Lord Jesus,  
for ever and ever.

All sing or say  Amen!

Some of the foods are set aside and given to the poor and needy.

- **Blessing of seeds for planting:** When planting seeds indoors or in a greenhouse, or when planting a garden, the family may offer this prayer. All gather around the place where the seeds are to be planted. The leader begins:

  *Let us ask the God of all life  
to give growth to these seeds.*

All pause for a moment of silent prayer. Then the leader continues:

  *Blessed are you, God of all the universe  
and creator of life:  
we praise you for your goodness.*

  *As we plant these seeds in hope,  
bless + them with life and growth.  
Teach us to be thankful for all your gifts,  
and generous in sharing them with others.*

  *Blessed are you, God of love,  
now and always and for ever.*

All sing or say  Amen!

**Welcoming new members of the Christian community:** By taking part in the Sunday celebrations, the family shares in the Church’s instruction of the newly baptized and of the whole believing community. During the Easter season and after as well, families may wish to invite one or more of the newly baptized, or those received into full communion, to share a friendly meal.

They may light the family Easter candle, and say the prayer and sing *Alleluia*, as described above on page 72. Or they may say the daily prayer (pages 87-116, below), or sing the short litany of the saints (CBW II, no. 8), including the patron saints of the guest and of the family members.

**Community celebrations:** In order to prolong the joys of Easter through the seven weeks of the season, it is helpful to become involved in the celebrations of different parishes, schools, religious communities, and Churches of other Christian denominations. Families can ask their parishes for further help in developing activities appropriate to the Easter season.

**Recognizing the presence of Jesus:** After the first Easter, the apostles learned to recognize the risen Christ present among them, usually when they

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2 See *The Great Sunday: Fifty Days of Easter in Your Parish*, by Dan F. Onley, described on page 70, above.
gathered for a meal. This strong sense of his continuing presence among us needs to become part of our faith experience too.

The Lord Jesus, our brother and our savior, is present among us in many ways (see Liturgy constitution, no. 7[7]). Have we thought about them lately? Can we deepen our faith in Jesus present among us in these ways?

○ In other people:

— Whenever anyone is hungry or thirsty or in need of help (see Mt. 25: 31-46). This is related to our liturgy: see James 1: 27; 2: 1-6.

— When two or more of us gather in his name for any good purpose (see Mt. 18: 20): At home, at church, at prayer, at work, or at play, we can recognize and welcome Jesus present among us.

— In the person of the bishop, presbyter, or deacon who presides over our liturgical celebrations: Jesus is present and working among us, helping us to share in offering praise to God our Father and in praying for salvation for the world.

○ In the liturgy:

— In the word: When God’s word is proclaimed with faith, Jesus — the holy Word of God — is speaking to us. Are we listening in faith and love and obedience?

— In the sacraments, by his power: It is the Lord Jesus who cleanses us and makes us God’s children and nourishes us; who gives us a share in his worship; who gives us his Spirit and marks us as God’s children; who joins us in holy matrimony, or gives us a share in the ministerial priesthood; who strengthens and heals the sick, who comes to the dying, who forgives our sins.

— In the eucharistic food, under the forms of bread and wine: We eat and drink this holy food in his memory, sharing in his unending life and being transformed by Jesus, so that we may become more like him every day; we may also honor Jesus, reserved in each church for the sick and the dying, and for our personal and family prayer and adoration.

— In someone who is in need (see Mt. 25: 31-46): Are we coming to his help, or refusing to help him in all his sisters and brothers in need?

At any time we may pray for the grace of recognizing and welcoming Jesus in our midst:

Jesus,
present among us in so many ways,
open our eyes with faith
and our hearts with love,
so that we may recognize you and welcome you.

* * *

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Other prayers about Christ's presence are given below: Friday, page 89; year A, page 94; Monday, page 104; Sixth Sunday, pages 106-107.

*  *  *

Helpful reading:

The scripture readings for each day in the Easter season are indicated in this Bulletin, and contained in the lectionary. Two editions are available for home use from CCCB Publications Services, at the address on the inside front cover of this issue:


Music for the season: see CBW 11, choir edition, no. 198, and the many other cross-references there; and page 73, above.

Blessings: See A Book of Blessings (1981, CCCB, Ottawa): index references to blessings of families, homes, candles, water, seeds; the book also contains many prayers of thanks and praise, and a variety of litanies that will be helpful to families wishing to grow in the spirit of the liturgy. See also pages 72-75, above.

National Bulletin on Liturgy: These references are particularly helpful:
* Paschal mystery in our devotion, in Bulletin 62, pages 24-30;
* Bulletin 63, Children and Liturgy: see pages 107-108 and 76 for many practical ideas for families;
* "In tune with the liturgical year," in Bulletin 91, pages 209-210;
* Bulletin 97, Holy Week and Triduum: see references on family life on page 34, 43, 44, 52, 58; Easter season, pages 59-61; Alleluia in practice, pages 62-63;
* Bible celebrations in Easter time: see Bulletin 102, pages 49-51;
* Other references on the season are given in Bulletin 61, pages 309-311; and Bulletin 101, pages 278-279.


Family prayer

The Easter season provides an opportunity for a family to grow in prayer. The natural uplift that comes with spring in the Northern hemisphere, added to the good will and efforts during Lent, can lead family members to learn to pray better. This article suggests a number of avenues to explore. Each family could try one at least of these each year.

Some Seasonal Prayers

Families may choose any of these forms of prayer for use during the Easter season:

Prayers of thanks and praise: These are always suitable during the great fifty days. Many are given in A Book of Blessings: praise, pages 256-262; thanks, pages 263-272.

- Phil. 2:6-11: This canticle of praise for the Easter mystery is appropriate for Sundays and weekdays of the season.

- Doxologies: See page 83, below. The doxology from any hymn, especially Easter hymns, may always be sung.

Scriptural act of faith: We may use one of the brief acts of faith found in the inspired word of God:

- Jesus is Lord! See 1 Cor. 12: 3; Rom. 10: 9; Phil. 2: 11.
- You are the Christ: See Mk. 8: 29.
- My Lord and my God! See Jn. 20: 28.
- We recognize you in the breaking of the bread: See Lk. 24: 31 and 35.

Other suggestions are given in Sunday Mass Book, pages 1292 and 1305.

Prayers to the Holy Spirit, or prayers to the Father or Christ to send the Spirit into our hearts and lives, are appropriate throughout the Easter season. Some prayers of this nature are given in this issue: see pages 91, 93, 100, 103-105, 107-110, 112-115.

All the prayers in this Bulletin: Any of these prayers can be prayed at any time during the season.
**Seasonal psalms:** During the great fifty days, these psalms help us to express the meaning of the season in our prayer: Ps. 118; Ps. 66; Ps. 47; Ps. 104. These may be sung or said: see CBW II, nos. 199-200, 204-206, 211, 219-220.

**Litany for the Easter season:** This litany may be prayed at a family gathering during the Easter season. *Alleluia* may be sung as a response in place of the one given here.

_Father of life,_
_we give you praise and glory._

All answer _Christ is risen, alleluia!_

_You have given Jesus victory over sin._ *R._
_You have raised him from the dead._ *R._
_You have made his cross a sign of glory._ *R._

_You have made us sharers in your life._ *R._
_with Christ, you have buried us in death to sin._ *R._
_with him you have raised us to new life._ *R._

_He is seated with you in glory._ *R._
_He sends his Spirit to guide our lives._ *R._
_Jesus will come again in glory._ *R._

Other acclamations or petitions may be added.

_All glory and praise are yours, holy God,_
_rule of heaven and earth:_
_we praise you for raising your Son Jesus from the dead_ and _for giving him victory over sin._
_Make us holy as we follow him in love,_ and _fill us with your Spirit,_ so _that we may give you glory_ all _the days of our life._

_Blessed are you, Father,_ for _ever and ever._

_All sing or say _Amen!_

**Embodied Prayer**

We are called to share in God's life with our whole being. We believe in the resurrection of the body and in embodied everlasting life. Here and now we are not angels. We have to embody our personal and community prayer and worship. We express our prayer and our worship by and through our bodily actions and through things that reach and touch our senses. This is why our liturgy is made up of words, rites, actions, gestures, movements, vesture; of
song, color, light, environment, atmosphere; of smells and bells, smoke and clapping, walking and standing and kneeling. We use all these to express and strengthen the faith and love that are in our hearts.

Our personal and family prayer can develop more fully if we learn to use some of these elements already present in the Church's liturgy. A few suggestions are given below, but many others may be developed. One of these may be used each week during the Easter season (or one for all seven weeks), and continued during the year at family prayer and grace on Sundays and special days.

1. **Standing with the Lord**: In the early centuries, the Christian people stood for prayer on Sundays and throughout the great fifty days; kneeling was forbidden. Standing was a reminder of the Lord's rising, a sign that we too are risen with him through our baptism. In today's liturgy, standing is gradually coming to be seen as the most appropriate posture for all during the entire eucharistic prayer. (See *Standing and kneeling*, in Bulletin 65, pages 247-249.)

During the Easter season, standing is the appropriate position for personal and family prayer, including grace at meals.

2. **Praying with arms outstretched**: This gesture is known as the *orans* ("praying") position, and was used by all in the early Christian centuries. The presiding presbyter still uses this gesture when proclaiming the collect and the eucharistic prayer. In the second eucharistic prayer, we are reminded that Christ stretched out his arms on the cross for us.

Families could raise their hands in prayer (see 1 Tim. 2: 8) during grace at mealtimes, and while saying the daily seasonal prayer, or a prayer of praise of thanks.

3. **Praying the Lord's prayer with outstretched arms**: Using the praying position (see no. 2, above), all sing or say the *Our Father* together.

4. **Praying the Lord's prayer with hands joined**: All join hands, and sing or say the *Our Father*.

5. **Bowing during the doxology**: When praying the *Glory to the Father*, all bow their head during the first half ("Glory . . . Holy Spirit"). Then they stand straight for the rest of the prayer.
6. **Bowing in silent adoration:** During prayer all may bow their head in silent adoration and praise to the holy Trinity. This sign of respect may also be made after hearing God’s word read aloud.

7. **Singing *Alleluia* with gestures:** We may extend and raise our arms while singing *Alleluia*. Using CBW II, no. 506, for example, the gestures could be made in this way:

   All stand, and begin with their hands at their sides. The gestures are made while singing.

   ![Gesture Diagram](image)

   * 1-2: While we are singing these notes, the arms are moved from the sides out about two feet. On 3-4, the hands return to the sides, but a little higher on the body.

   * 5-6: Again the hands and arms are moved out, farther this time; on 7-8, they are returned to the sides, but higher.

   * 9-10: The arms are extended fully, and then raised on 11-12.

   The gestures are made a little wider and higher each time. A little practice in slow motion will help all members to make these gestures reverently. (Children may visualize a Christmas tree as the shape they are making with their gestures.)

   **Other ideas:** A family may wish to develop their own gestures for 1 Cor. 10: 31; Col. 3: 17; 1 Thess 5: 16-18; or 1 Thess. 5: 23; or for use when singing *Amen!* Ps. 136 is a prayer of praise with a constant refrain (see CBW II, no. 434); additional verses may be composed to reflect gifts for which we praise and thank God.

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1 This idea was suggested by Sr. Vivian Mancini, SC, of Mount Carmel Center in New Waterford, Nova Scotia.
Several traditional prayer forms are described here. A family can decide to become familiar with at least one of these prayer forms during the great fifty days.

Psalm: The psalms are poetic hymns of praise. Inspired by God's Spirit, they are part of the Hebrew scriptures. The book of psalms contains 150 psalms, and these are used by Jews and Christians in personal, family, and community worship. The different types of psalms are described in more detail in Bulletin 75, Praying the Psalms.

A family may learn to pray a psalm in a variety of ways. One person can read the psalm, and all respond after each stanza with an appropriate refrain, as in the responsorial psalm at Mass; this refrain may be sung or said. All may pray the psalm together, or alternate stanzas, with one group or person praying a stanza, and the rest saying the following one. Christians have the tradition of adding the short doxology, Glory to the Father, at the end of each psalm. (This practice is continued in the rosary, where this doxology is added at the end of each decade.)

Many short selections from the psalms are given in Sunday Mass Book and in CBW II for the Masses of the Easter season. A selection of eleven psalms is given in Family Book of Prayer.

Berakah: The Jewish people gradually developed a form of prayer known as the berakah or blessing. Its simple form is a spontaneous acclamation, such as this:

Blessed are you, Lord our God:

you have given us this beautiful sunset.

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

A more developed form may include an initial blessing; a remembering of God’s saving acts in the past; a petition or series of intercessions; and a concluding blessing to seal or complete the prayer. The most important model of this formula in Christian use is the eucharistic prayer; briefer ones are now used during the preparation of the gifts.

The progress of a developed berakah may be described in these four words:

- **Glory:** The prayer begins by blessing (praising) God;
- **Story:** In a spirit of faith and thanks, we recall the great things God has done for God’s people in the past;
- **Worry:** In our trust, we ask God for our needs and for those of the world and of the Church;
- **Glory:** The prayer ends by blessing God again.
An example of this prayer shows these four steps:

* * *

**Blessed are you, loving Father,**
**ruler of the universe:**

You have given us your Son as our leader, and have made us temples of your Holy Spirit.

Fill our family with your light and peace.

Have mercy on all who suffer, and bring us to everlasting joy with you.

Father, we bless your name for ever and ever. Amen!

* * *

Helps for developing prayers in the berakah format are given in Bulletin 49, pages 152-153, 164-168; and no. 75, page 183; in Sunday Mass Book, page 1318. Many examples are given in *A Book of Blessings.*

**Doxology:** A doxology is a prayer of praise, giving glory to God. Familiar examples are the *Glory to the Father,* and *Glory to God in the highest.* These can be sung or prayed on any occasion during the Easter season, including gatherings, meals, and family prayer times.

A variety of doxologies may be found in the book of Revelation (see Rev. 4: 8; 4: 11; 5: 12; 7: 10; and 7: 12), and in the New Testament epistles (see Phil. 4: 20; Eph. 1: 3; Gal. 1: 5; Rom. 16: 27; 1 Pet. 5: 11; 2 Pet. 3: 18; and Jude 25).

Other brief formulas may be prayed as doxologies or acclamations in personal and family prayer:

- The versicles at the beginning and end of the gospel (“Glory to you” and “Praise to you”);
- The lenten form of the gospel acclamation (see examples in *Sunday Mass Book,* page 588, and CBW II, nos. 359-364);
- The *Alleluia* is a very short form of doxology, and may be sung: see page 73, above.

**Collect:** In the present Order of Mass, the collect or oration format is used for the opening prayer, prayer over the gifts, and prayer after communion (see GI,3 nos. 32, 53, 56k [1422, 1443, 1446]; Bulletin 65, pages 222-225).

The collect stands within a distinct structure: an invitation to pray, with a pause for silent prayer by all; the collect, said by the presider; and an acclamation (*Amen!*) by which the community gives its assent to the prayer said in the name of all.

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3 **GI:** *General Instruction of the Roman Missal.* This is a pastoral introduction and explanation of the rites of the Mass, and is contained in the beginning of the sacramentary: see pages 11-54 in the 1974 Canadian edition. *New Introductions to the Sacramentary and Lectionary* (1983, CCCB, Ottawa) is available with the 1983 reprint of the sacramentary or as a separate book; this edition contains the same text as in *Documents on the Liturgy,* document 208, pages 465-533 [1376-1731]: see note 1 on page 67, above.
The central thrust of the collect itself may be summarized in four words:

○ **You**: It is addressed to God our Father, using one of many titles or attributes;

○ **Who**: We recall some of the wonderful works that God has done for our ancestors in the faith and for us;

○ **Do**: We ask God to continue to carry out the works of salvation for us in our time;

○ **Through**: We offer our prayer through Jesus Christ, who is our brother, our savior, our Lord, our mediator, our only way to the Father.

An example of the collect:

*Loving Father, ruler of the universe,*
*you have given us your Son as our leader,*
*and have made us temples of your Holy Spirit.*

*Fill our family with your light and peace.*
*Have mercy on all who suffer,*
*and bring us to everlasting joy with you.*

*We ask this grace through Christ our Lord.  Amen!*

* * *

**Helpful reading:**


*Family Book of Prayer (1983, CCCB, Ottawa).*

*A Book of Blessings (1981, CCCB, Ottawa).*

A prayer for a family gathering during the Easter season is given in *A Book of Blessings,* page 230; see also page 91, below.

**National Bulletin on Liturgy:** These issues offer further suggestions for family prayer:

* No. 44  People of Prayer  * No. 80  Helping Families to Pray
* No. 63  Children and Liturgy  * No. 94  Gestures and Symbols
* No. 68  Family Prayer  * No. 89  Children Learn to Celebrate
* No. 75  Praying the Psalms  * No. 102  Celebrating God’s Word

* Praying in the Easter season: no. 91, pages 209-210
* Index to further references: no. 61, pages 336-340; no. 101, pages 289-292.
Easter Triduum

The Easter cycle consists of a time of preparation (Lent), of celebration (Easter triduum), and of reflection (Easter season). The triduum — when we celebrate the suffering, dying, and rising of Jesus and our sharing in his Easter mystery — is the high point of the liturgical year. The triduum lasts from Holy Thursday evening to Easter Sunday evening.

HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

Gospel reading (Jn. 13: 1-15): Jesus shows his love for us by dying for us. At the last supper he washes his disciples' feet, giving them and us an example of service to follow.

Other readings: Exod 12: 1-8, 11-14; Ps. 116; and 1 Cor. 11: 23-26 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 382-390).

Reflection: During the Passover supper, Jesus made a new covenant with us. He gave us his body and blood as our food, and told us to do this as a remembrance of him. We celebrate this eucharist as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father for saving us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Prayer:

Father,
we thank you for your glory:
nourish us with the bread of life and cup of salvation,
and lead us in the paths of Jesus our Lord.

Action: Together with God's people I will offer thanks to the Father each time I take part in the eucharist.

Paschal fast: The people of God fast on Friday and Saturday of this week to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare themselves to share more deeply in the joy of his resurrection.

GOOD FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 18: 1—19: 42): As we listen again to the passion of our Lord, we are able to see how the Father is glorified by the death of Jesus. God has saved us by the sacrifice of the Son.

Other readings: Is. 52: 13—53: 12; Ps. 31; and Heb. 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 390-419).
Easter Triduum

Reflection: Jesus suffered and died because of our sins, but God has raised him. We who obey Jesus receive salvation from him. With Jesus we place ourselves in the hands of our Father.

Prayer: Loving Father,
we praise you for saving us
by the suffering, death, and rising of Jesus.
Teach us to turn away from our sins
and live each day in your love.

Action: I will turn away from my sins and live today for God.

HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday, the people of God remain in recollection at the tomb of the Lord. We meditate on his sufferings and death, and refrain from celebrating the eucharist until tonight.

Throughout the day, we are invited to continue the solemn paschal fast which we began on Good Friday.

EASTER VIGIL

Gospel reading (Year A, Mt. 28: 1-10; Year B, Mk. 16: 1-8; Year C, Lk. 24: 1-12): Angels tell the women that Jesus is risen from the dead. Alleluia! (praise to God!) is our song of rejoicing.

Other readings: Nine readings from God’s holy word prepare us to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and our sharing in it through baptism. Filled with his Spirit of joy, we renew our baptismal promises, and ask Jesus for strength to continue to die with him to sin and live with him for God. (See Sunday Mass Book, pages 424-468.)

Reflection: The full celebration of nine readings from the scriptures helps us to think about the meaning of our baptism: we are baptized into the death and rising of Jesus. With him we die to sin, and with him we rise to new life for God.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our risen savior,
help us to die with you to sin
and live with you each day for God,
for you are our holy Lord, now and for ever.

Action: I will live by my baptismal promises today and every day, with the grace and help of Jesus our Lord.

The spirit of joy that begins during the Easter vigil overflows into the following period of fifty days.
FIFTY DAYS OF JOY

EASTER SUNDAY

The major celebration of the Church year is the Easter vigil. On Easter Sunday morning, the spirit of the night's celebration is continued, and baptismal promises are renewed. The same Mass texts are used each year.

Gospel reading (Jn. 20: 1-9; or from the Easter vigil): When Mary Magdalene announces that Jesus' body is not in the tomb, Peter and the beloved disciple run to the place. The disciple begins to believe in Jesus as Lord.

• Evening Mass (Lk. 24: 13-35): See page 88, below; and page 94, year A.

Other readings: Acts 10: 34, 37-43; Ps. 118; Col. 3: 1-4, or 1 Cor. 5: 6-8 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 469-476).

Reflection: We are invited to deepen and proclaim our faith in Jesus as our living Lord. All who believe in him will be forgiven. He is the source of our life of love, and he calls us on to remove all sin from our life, and to begin anew to live with him for God.

As we renew our baptismal promises today, we will ask Jesus to open our hearts to the continuing presence and action of his Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Risen Lord Jesus,
we praise you in your glory.
Continue to have mercy on sinners,
and let your Holy Spirit live in our hearts
as we try to live each day in your love.

Action: I will praise God who has raised Jesus from the dead, and who calls us to live and work with Jesus.

*   *   *

Lord Jesus, you have been raised from the dead for us:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you share your new life with us
in the waters of our baptism:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you promise unending life
to those who eat the bread of life
and drink the cup of salvation:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Easter Week

MONDAY

Gospel reading (Mt. 28: 8-15): Jesus greets the women, and promises that his followers will see him in Galilee.

Reflection: God has raised Jesus from the dead. As God's holy people, we rejoice with Jesus in his victory over death.

Prayer: Jesus our brother,
we praise you and we love you.
Help us to live each day with you.

Action: I will try to recognize and love Jesus in everyone I meet today.

TUESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 20: 11-18): Mary Magdalene meets the risen Lord. After she recognizes him and makes her act of faith in him, Jesus sends her to tell the others.

Reflection: Our Lord wants us to deepen our faith in him and to share it with others.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our teacher,
lead us to proclaim our faith in you
by the way we live each day.
Help us to share your love with other people.

Action: I will reflect Christ's joy and peace in my contacts with others today, especially those closest to me.

WEDNESDAY

Gospel reading (Lk. 24: 13-35): Jesus opens God's word to two disciples, and leads them to recognize him in the breaking of the bread. They go back to the city to tell the apostles.

Reflection: We are invited to listen carefully to God's word and to recognize Jesus each time we celebrate the eucharist together.

Prayer: Jesus, broken for us and our sins,
and raised to glory to give us life,
open our eyes of faith.
Help us to listen to your word
and to recognize you in the breaking of bread.

Action: I will listen more carefully to God's word, and deepen my faith in the eucharist.
Easter Week

THURSDAY

Gospel reading (Lk. 24: 35-48): Jesus appears to his disciples, and opens their minds to understand God's word about him. They are to be his witnesses to all the world.

Reflection: Jesus has suffered, died, and risen from the dead. In his name we are to share his forgiving love with all people.

Prayer: Loving Jesus, we believe that you suffered and died for our sins, and that you have risen again to give us your life. Cleanse our hearts, and send us to share your forgiving love with others.

Action: I will forgive all who have hurt me in any way, and will pray for all sinners.

FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 21: 1-14): Jesus appears to the disciples while they are fishing. He helps them to catch a large number of fish, and they recognize him.

Reflection: Are we sometimes slow to recognize the Lord Jesus when he comes to us? He is present in his Church, his people, his word, his sacraments. He is present in the poor, the suffering, the needy. He is present whenever two or three of us gather in his name. Do we recognize him?

Prayer: Jesus, present to us in so many ways, deepen our love and our faith. Help us to recognize you in all the ways you choose to come to us.

Action: I will ask Jesus to deepen my faith and help me to see him in others.

SATURDAY

Gospel reading (Mk. 16: 9-15): The apostles are slow to believe that Jesus has risen from the dead. He sends them out to tell the Good News to all the world.

Reflection: Are we slow, reluctant, stubborn when it comes to believing the Good News? This is the Good News: that God loves us — each of us, all of us — and has sent Jesus to be our savior and our life.

Prayer: Jesus, when I am slow to believe in those you send, let your Spirit open my eyes of faith and deepen my love for you.

Action: I will pray for stronger faith, and will try to believe all who are sent by God to teach me about Jesus and his love.
SECOND SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON

On the Sunday after Easter, we stand with Thomas and declare our faith in Jesus as our Lord and our God. We proclaim our faith, and pray in love for those who do not know Jesus.

Year A

Gospel reading (Jn. 20: 19-31): Our Lord gives the Holy Spirit and the gifts of peace, joy, and forgiveness to the apostles. He invites Thomas to believe in him.

Other readings: Acts 2: 42-47; Ps. 118; and 1 Pet. 1: 3-9 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 477-481).

Reflection: We too are invited to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the savior sent by God. When we believe by God's grace, we share in everlasting life through the name of Jesus. How do we profess our faith in Jesus, our risen Lord? Are we trying to live each day as his followers?

Prayer: Jesus, our Lord and our God,
we believe in you
and we give you praise and glory.
Help us to believe in you more firmly
and to live each day in your love.

Action: I will proclaim my faith in Jesus, our brother and our Lord.

Year B


Other readings: Acts 4: 32-35; Ps. 118; and 1 Jn. 5: 1-6 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 500-504).

Reflection: The Lord Jesus invites all his followers to live in his peace and joy. We are to learn to forgive others as readily as Jesus has forgiven us. If we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our savior, we will look for ways of loving, serving, and forgiving others each day.

Prayer: Risen Lord Jesus,
Son of God and our savior,
we give you glory and praise.
Let your power at work in us
overcome the bonds of our sins,
and lead us to love you in all we do.

Action: I will ask Jesus to deepen my faith, and to lead me to love, serve, and forgive others with him.
Second Sunday in the Easter Season


Other readings: Acts 5: 12-16; Ps. 118; and Rev. 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 521-525).

Reflection: Jesus is the Lord of life and death. He has overcome the power of sin and Satan, and is working in us and with us to conquer sin in our lives. Jesus invites us to believe in him, and to follow him on the path of light and life.

Prayer:  
Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, our God and our brother:  
we praise you for your glory.  
Be with us in our weakness  
and give us the strength of your Spirit  
as you lead us each day on your way of life.

Action: I will show my belief in the risen Lord by living this day in his love.

PRAYER AT A FAMILY GATHERING

This prayer may be used at gatherings during the Easter season:

Let us pray:

All pause for a moment of silent prayer.

Heavenly Father,  
we praise you for your goodness  
in raising Jesus from the dead,  
and for bringing us together to celebrate in joy.  
Grant that all our festivities  
may be for your honor and glory.

We ask this grace  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All sing or say  Amen!
Second Week in the Easter Season

MONDAY

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 3: 1-8): Jesus tells us that we need to be born again through water and the Holy Spirit so that we will be able to see God's kingdom.

**Reflection:** We have been born again through our baptism into the dying and rising of Jesus Christ. How faithful are we in thanking God for this gift? Do we try to live as God's holy people?

**Prayer:**

> Loving God,  
> we thank you for calling us in Jesus  
> and for giving us the Holy Spirit.  
> Help us to live today as members of your kingdom.

**Action:** I will thank God several times today for calling me to new life in baptism.

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TUESDAY

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 3: 7-15): Jesus tells Nicodemus about the things of heaven, and invites him to believe. Our Lord gives eternal life to all who believe in him.

**Reflection:** We have been baptized into the kingdom. Does our daily living show that we are God's beloved children? Do we share our belief in Jesus with other people?

**Prayer:**

> Dear Jesus,  
> help us to believe in you more strongly,  
> and to live by your words each day.  
> Bring all people closer to God  
> through the way we live today.

**Action:** I will ask for stronger faith in Jesus for myself and for those who are close to me.

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WEDNESDAY

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 3: 16-21): Jesus tells us the Good News: God has sent him to be one of us, and to bring life and salvation to all who believe in him.

**Reflection:** Our brother and our Lord invites us to believe the Good News of God's love for us, and to respond by believing what Jesus says to us.

**Prayer:**

> Jesus,  
> we join you in praising God  
> who loves us so deeply.  
> Help us to believe in you,  
> and to show this by our love for others.

**Action:** I will thank God for loving me and for loving all people.
Second Week in the Easter Season

THURSDAY

See also Acts 5: 27-33; and Ps. 34

Gospel reading (Jn. 3: 31-36): Jesus reminds us that he comes from God, and speaks God’s words of truth to us. If we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life.

Reflection: If we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life. He is already sharing God’s life with us through our faith and baptism. Are we living as God’s people of truth?

Prayer: 

Loving Father,
you have sent your Son Jesus
to teach us your words of truth.
Help us to believe firmly in Jesus
and to serve you in all we do.

Action: I will thank God for giving me a share in eternal life.

FRIDAY

See also Acts 5: 34-42; and Ps. 27

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 1-15): Jesus feeds a crowd of thousands with five barley loaves and two fish. The people recognize that he is a prophet, a teacher sent by God.

Reflection: Do we recognize Jesus as the great teacher sent by God? Do we let our Lord’s words guide our living? Are we true followers of Jesus, the teacher of life?

Prayer: 

Jesus, our teacher and our Lord,
we believe that you speak God’s word to us.
Help us to put our trust in you.

Action: I will listen with faith to Jesus’ words today, and follow his teaching in the way I live.

SATURDAY

See also Acts 6: 1-7; and Ps. 33

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 16-21): During a storm at sea, Jesus appears to his disciples and brings them to safety.

Reflection: At all times our Lord is with us, but particularly in our moments of danger or need. He invites us to trust in him, and not to be afraid. How ready are we to put our trust in Jesus?

Prayer: 

Jesus our brother,
be with us in our times of need.
Calm our fears with the strength of your Spirit,
and help us to walk with you toward the Father.

Action: In times of need I will ask Jesus for his help.
THIRD SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON


Gospel reading (Lk. 24: 13-35): Jesus walks with two of his disciples, and opens the scriptures for them. He had to suffer in order to enter into glory. They recognize him in the breaking of bread, and rush back to share the Good News with the apostles.

Other readings: Acts 2: 14, 22-28; Ps. 16; and 1 Pet. 1: 17-21 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 482-486).

Reflection: Each time we celebrate Mass, we have Jesus explaining God’s word to us through the homily. Do we recognize the many ways in which Jesus is present among us during the Mass?

Prayer: Jesus, risen savior,
we give you praise and glory.
We thank you for our baptism,
when you opened our ears to hear God’s word,
our mouths to sing God’s praise,
our eyes to recognize your presence.
Keep us firm in your faith and love.

Action: I will recognize Jesus present among us when we celebrate liturgy together.


Gospel reading (Lk. 24: 35-48): Jesus appears to his gathered disciples. He has done all that the scriptures said he would do. As his witnesses, they are to preach to all that their sins can be forgiven.

Other readings: Acts 3: 13-15, 17-19; Ps. 4; and 1 Jn. 2: 1-5 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 504-508).

Reflection: Jesus invites us to believe that he has risen, and is truly living among us. He has died to forgive our sins, and wants us to share this Good News with others. Jesus Christ has overcome the power of sin, and wants to help us to die with him to sin each day, and live for God.

Prayer: Jesus, savior,
we give you glory and praise, power and worship.
Make your love perfect in us,
and help us to keep your commandments.

Action: I will try to keep Jesus’ commandments today with his help.

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1 The Second Vatican Council reminds us that Jesus is present in many ways in the Church, especially when we celebrate the liturgy: he is present in the Mass in the person of the bishop or presbyter, and in the eucharistic food; in the sacraments by his power; in the word; in the praying and singing assembly (Mt. 18: 20). See Constitution on the liturgy, no. 7 [7]. See also pages 73-77 and 89, above.
Third Sunday in the Easter Season

Year C

Gospel reading (Jn. 21: 1-19): After Jesus helps the apostles to catch a large haul of fish, he invites Peter to declare his love. Our Lord puts Peter in charge of his flock.

Other readings: Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41; Ps. 30; and Rev. 5: 11-14 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 526-530).

Reflection: Jesus is our leader and our savior, come to bring us repentance and forgiveness for our sins. Each of us is invited to express our faith in Jesus and our love for him: Lord, you know that I love you. Can I honestly say these words?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God,
we give you all praise, honor, and glory.
You know how we love you:
forgive our sins,
stir up our love,
and let us walk with you each day.

Action: I will ask Jesus to cleanse my heart and to deepen my love for him.

OUR NEXT ISSUE

The special Synod of Bishops in November-December 1985 affirmed “that ecumenism has inscribed itself deeply and indelibly in the consciousness of the Church. We bishops ardently desire that the incomplete communion already existing with the non-Catholic Churches and communities might, with the grace of God, come to the point of full communion” (final report, II C, no. 7).

How far have we moved along the road toward unity among Christians? Are we able to move closer to our goal of one celebration of the eucharist around the same altar? What is the Lord Jesus asking of us now?

Bulletin 104, Ecumenism and Liturgy: II, looks at what is happening here in North America, and at some of the needs and challenges we are facing. It provides helpful information, and invites parishioners, catechists, liturgy committee members, those involved in various ministries, and clergy to move forward with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This issue of the Bulletin will be ready for mailing in May.

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 Third Week in the Easter Season

MONDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 22-29): Jesus invites the people to work for the food that brings eternal life: they are to believe in him as the one sent by God.

Reflection: Do we sometimes take Jesus and God and our faith for granted? Are we working to gain eternal life? Do we believe in Jesus as the one sent by God to teach us the way to life?

Prayer: We believe in you, Jesus,
Lord of life and teacher of truth. 
Help us to continue working with you
for eternal life for all your people.

Action: Once again I will proclaim today: Jesus, I believe in you. Make my faith and my love stronger.

TUESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 30-35): God gives the true bread of life to God’s people. Jesus is this bread of life. He invites us to come to him and believe in him.

Reflection: “Come to me and believe in me.” How well do we accept these words of Jesus? How often in the day do we come to him with praise or petition? How often do we express our faith and our love?

Prayer: Jesus, Son of God and our brother,
we come to you to give you glory
and to ask for a growing faith
for ourselves and for all we love.

Action: I will come to Jesus and ask him to make my faith stronger.

WEDNESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 35-40): Jesus has come to bring life to all who accept him, but some do not believe. All who believe in Jesus will have everlasting life and will be raised up on the final day.

Reflection: Do we accept Jesus as the source of our life? He comes from God our Father to bring us everlasting life and to raise us on the final day. Are we open to the gifts our Lord is offering to us?

Prayer: Holy God,
we praise you for sending Jesus to us.
Help us to believe in him
and to follow him each day in love.

Action: I will accept Jesus as my Lord, and believe in him firmly.
Third Week in the Easter Season

THURSDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 44-51): God draws us to Jesus, and invites us to accept him. If we believe in Jesus, we have eternal life and will live for ever with God.

Reflection: Jesus has come to give us life. He invites us to believe in him, to accept him as our way to God. How well do we believe in Jesus? Do we follow him faithfully?

Prayer: Jesus, bread of life,
help us to believe in you.
Living bread, make us live for ever with you.

Action: Today I will proclaim that I believe in Jesus as my Lord and my brother.

FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 52-59): Jesus invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood, and so have faith and unending life.

Reflection: How often we have eaten and drunk this holy food! Do we come to our Lord's banquet in a spirit of faith and love? Are we hungry for this food? Are we as ready as Saul to turn fully to the Lord's will for us?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Son of God,
depth our faith in you,
and lead us to the living Father.
Nourish us by your body and blood,
and let us continue to bring your Good News
to all the people we meet.

Action: I will thank God for nourishing me with the food that comes from heaven.

SATURDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 6: 60-69): Many disciples find Jesus' words (verse 56) too hard, and refuse to follow him. Peter speaks up for those who still believe, recognizing that Jesus is speaking the words of everlasting life.

Reflection: Some people follow the Lord Jesus when the going is easy, but abandon him when the path gets rough. How firm are we in our faith? Do we pray often for strength to follow him at all times?

Prayer: Jesus, holy One of God, we believe in you.
Teach us to place all our trust in you,
and to accept your guidance in all we do.

Action: I will ask Jesus to help me to follow him all the time, especially when it is hard.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON

The Hebrew scriptures speak of God as the shepherd of Israel, as the one who cares for the chosen people. Jesus takes this title for himself, and describes himself as the good shepherd, the one who gives his life to save his flock, God's beloved children.


Gospel reading (Jn. 10: 1-10): Jesus is the one sent to be the shepherd of God's people. All who recognize Jesus' voice will follow him into safe pastures, and he will give us God's gift of life.


Reflection: Do we recognize Jesus as our shepherd and leader, the one who guides us in God's paths? Are we listening to his voice? He wants to lead us into God's life.

Prayer: Jesus, our leader and our shepherd,
we praise you for your love.
Help us to listen to your voice
and to follow you on the pathways of life.

Action: I will listen to Jesus speaking to me today in the scriptures, and follow his words.


Gospel reading (Jn. 10: 11-18): Jesus is the good shepherd, sent by God to give his life for us. Jesus freely dies for us, and is raised to new life. He wants all people to be members of his flock.

Other readings: Acts 4: 8-12; Ps. 118; and 1 Jn. 3: 1-2 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 508-512).

Reflection: Our leader has come to give his life freely for us, because he loves us. He alone is the one who can save us and make us God's children. Are we open to Jesus as he invites us to follow him as our shepherd and leader?

Prayer: Holy Lord Jesus,
our shepherd and our leader,
we praise you for dying to save us.
Bring all people into your flock
and lead us all to God.

Action: I will thank Jesus for dying for me, and will live this day in his love.
Fourth Sunday in the Easter Season


Gospel reading (Jn. 10: 27-30): Jesus knows his flock and speaks to them. They listen to him and let him lead them to unending life with God our Father.

Other readings: Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Ps. 100; and Rev. 7: 9, 14-17 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 531-534).

Reflection: If we belong to Jesus, we listen to his words and follow him. He is offering us the gift of unending life, beginning now and reaching its fullness in heaven. Are we listening to Jesus? Are we following him?

Prayer: Jesus, our brother and our Lord, we thank you for your gifts of love and life. Speak to us and help us to listen. Lead us, and help us to follow you. Give us eternal life, and help us to live with you for God.

Action: Today I will listen to Jesus and follow him in all I do.

EASTER SEASON IN PAST ISSUES

Many articles and references on the Easter season have appeared in past issues of the Bulletin. These are listed in detail in our two index issues, Bulletin 61 (1965-1977), and Bulletin 101 (1978-1985):

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See also Bulletin 102, pages 49-51.

These issues may be ordered from CCCB Publications Service, 90 Parent Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B1.
Fourth Week in the Easter Season

MONDAY

Gospel reading (year A: Jn. 10: 11-18; years B, C: Jn. 10: 1-10): Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who has come to lay down his life for us. He wants us to have a full share in his life.

Reflection: In our baptism Jesus first gave us a share in his life. He continues to deepen our Christian life each time we celebrate the eucharist and the sacraments, each time we pray, each time we do good works or carry our cross with Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
you are our good shepherd.
Lead us in your ways.
Send us your Spirit to give us light and courage,
and bring us to share in your heavenly banquet.

Action: I will place my life today in the hands of Jesus.

TUESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 10: 22-30): Jesus is our good shepherd. Those who belong to him listen to his words and follow him. He will give us eternal life.

Reflection: How well do we listen to Jesus’ words? Are we faithful in following him? Do we ask for help to follow him more closely?

Prayer: Jesus, our leader and our shepherd,
help us to listen to your voice,
to do your will each day,
and to follow you on the pathways of life.

Action: I will listen to Jesus’ words today, and follow him by loving others.

WEDNESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 12: 44-50): God our Father has sent Jesus into the world to bring us light in our darkness and to give us unending life.

Reflection: Do we believe in Jesus, and in the Father who sends him to us? Do we show our faith by listening to Jesus’ words and obeying him? How can we thank God for giving us unending life through Jesus?

Prayer: Loving God,
we praise you for giving us Jesus as our brother.
Help us to listen to his words
and to follow him on the path of life.

Action: I will thank God today for sending Jesus to lead me to everlasting life.
Fourth Week in the Easter Season

THURSDAY

See also Acts 13: 13-25; and Ps. 89

Gospel reading (Jn. 13: 16-20): Jesus tells his disciples that they too must be servants of others as he is. We are to welcome him and believe that he is sent to us by God.

Reflection: Are we ready to listen to these words of Jesus? He asks us to be servants of one another, to serve others in love as he has done. He wants us to believe in him, and to welcome him as the one God has sent to save us.

Prayer: Jesus, sent to us by the Father, we welcome you. Help us to serve others as you have done, by loving and forgiving them.

Action: I will try to serve others today, and to forgive those who have hurt me.

FRIDAY

See also Acts 13: 26-33; and Ps. 2

Gospel reading (Jn. 14: 1-6): Jesus is going to prepare a home for us in heaven. He is our way, our truth, our life, and he alone can lead us to God.

Reflection: Do we accept Jesus as our way to God, as the source of our truth and our life? Are we following him on the way to God our Father?

Prayer: Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life, we love you. Guide us today in your love, and lead us to the Father.

Action: I will follow Jesus in all that I do today.

SATURDAY

See also Acts 13: 44-52; and Ps. 98

Gospel reading (Jn. 14: 7-14): God the Father is living in Jesus. Our Lord invites his followers to pray in his name.

Reflection: Jesus lives his whole life in closest union with our heavenly Father. When we pray to our loving Father, do we pray in the name of Jesus, the beloved Son, our brother?

Prayer: Loving Father, in Jesus we are your children. In his name we ask you to keep us in your love and to bring his light to all.

Action: I will pray today in Jesus' name.
FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON

Today's gospel readings show us the place of Jesus in our lives. He is our way, truth, and life. He is the vine and we are his living branches. He is the one who gives us the new commandment of loving one another. Jesus shows us the way to eternal life: "Follow me."

Year A

Gospel reading (Jn. 14: 1-12): Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. He is our way, our truth, our life, our only way to God our Father.

Other readings: Acts 6: 1-7; Ps. 33; and 1 Pet. 2: 4-9 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 491-495).

Reflection: Jesus is our way to God, the fullness of God's truth, the source of our physical and spiritual life. How seriously do we take our Lord? Do we devote ourselves to prayer, God's word, good works? Is our life a spiritual sacrifice that we give to God?

Prayer: Loving Father,
we praise you for giving us Jesus as our way to you.
Help us to live each day in his love,
and to work with him to build your kingdom on earth.

Action: I will ask Jesus to help me follow his way to God today and each day this week.

Year B

Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 1-8): Jesus is a living vine, and we are his branches. Our heavenly Father prunes us by Jesus' words to make us bear fruit. We have to remain alive in Jesus by keeping his commandments; in this way we will bear much fruit for our God.

Other readings: Acts 9: 26-31; Ps. 22; and 1 Jn. 3: 18-24 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 512-516).

Reflection: If we remain with Jesus, we will live with his life and bear rich fruit for God. If we separate ourselves from Jesus, we will lose eternal life and die, bearing no fruit: our life will be useless. Which side do we choose?

Prayer: Jesus, living vine,
we sing your praises,
for you are God's holy Son.
Keep us alive in you,
faithful to your commandment of love,
and bearing lasting fruit with you for God.

Action: With God's grace I will get rid of anything in my life that leads me away from Jesus.
Fifth Sunday in the Easter Season


Gospel reading (Jn. 13: 31-33a, 34-35): Jesus has given glory to God by his life, and now he himself will receive glory by his dying and rising. Our Lord gives us his new commandment, to love one another as he has loved us.


Reflection: Jesus lived to give glory to God, and invites us to live each day for God’s honor and praise, accepting hardships and joys as they come to us. Jesus invites us to follow him by loving one another with his kind of love. Can other people tell from the way we live that we are Jesus’ followers?

Prayer: Jesus our brother, we join you in giving glory to the Father. Send us your Holy Spirit to guide us and to give us your strength to love one another as fully as you have loved us.

Action: I will ask the Spirit of Jesus to help me to love those around me as fully as Jesus loves them.

CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY LECTIONARY

Calendars for the CCCB edition of the Sunday lectionary are now available for 1986-1996. Those who own a copy of Lectionary for Mass: Sundays and Solemnities — Study Edition (1978, CCCB, Ottawa) may request a free copy of the calendar by writing to:

CCCB Publications Service
90 Parent Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B1

Please enclose a 34¢ Canadian stamp, and type or print your address clearly, since this will be used as an address label.
Fifth Week in the Easter Season

**MONDAY**

*See also Acts 14: 5-18; and Ps. 115*

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 14: 21-26): Jesus tells us that all who love him keep his commandments. He and the Father live within those who keep Jesus' word. The Holy Spirit is sent to teach us more about Jesus.

**Reflection:** If we love God and keep Jesus' word, our God comes to us and lives in our hearts. Are we aware of God's loving presence in us? Can we become more faithful to the teaching of Jesus and his Holy Spirit?

**Prayer:**

*Loving God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*we give you praise and glory.*

*Continue to live in our hearts*

*and to guide the way we live for you.*

**Action:** I will praise God who lives within my heart, and in the lives of others.

---

**TUESDAY**

*See also Acts 14: 19-28; and Ps. 145*

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 14: 27-31a): Jesus offers his own peace to those who follow him in love. He invites us to believe in him, and in his love for the Father.

**Reflection:** When we are disturbed or troubled, do we turn to Jesus and ask him to give us peace?

**Prayer:**

*Jesus,*

*y you are always ready to listen to us*

*when we come to you in prayer.*

*Grant us your peace in our hearts,*

*and help us to share it with others.*

**Action:** When I am troubled, I will ask Jesus to give me a share in his peace.

---

**WEDNESDAY**

*See also Acts 15: 1-6; and Ps. 122*

**Gospel reading** (Jn. 15: 1-8): Jesus tells us that we are like branches of his vine. We are invited to keep his commandments, to live in him, and so to bear fruit for our God.

**Reflection:** Are we trying to live in Jesus, and opening our hearts to him? Do we let his words guide our life? Are we bearing much fruit for God our Father?

**Prayer:**

*Jesus,*

*help us to live in you.*

*Give us your Spirit to deepen our love*

*and to help us bear much fruit for the Father.*

**Action:** Today I will welcome Jesus in my heart, and bear fruit for God in all I do.
THURSDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 9-11): Jesus has remained in his Father's love, and invites us to stay in this love with him. He is the source of our joy.

Reflection: Jesus wants us to keep his commandments and to stay with him in the Father's love. Do we let Jesus' words guide our daily living? Are we filled with his joy?

Prayer: Jesus,
fill us with your joy
and keep us in your love.

Action: I will rejoice because Jesus loves us all.

FRIDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 12-17): Our Lord invites us to love one another as he has loved us. He has chosen us to bear lasting fruit for our God.

Reflection: Do we love others as much as Jesus has loved us? Do we forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us? What does Jesus want us to improve in our way of living?

Prayer: Jesus,
help us to live for you
by loving and serving and forgiving one another.
Fill our hearts with your Spirit,
and guide us each day.

Action: I will praise Jesus, who has chosen me to love others and to bear lasting fruit for God.

SATURDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 18-21): Jesus has been hated and persecuted, and warns us that we too will suffer with him.

Reflection: Are we ready to follow Jesus, even when this will make us less popular? Can we see persecution and suffering as part of the price we pray for loving Jesus? Do we ask him to give us his strength?

Prayer: Jesus,
be with us when we are persecuted for you.
Fill us with your love,
and keep us faithful to you.

Action: I will ask Jesus to help all who are persecuted today.
SIXTH SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON

Love Jesus, keep his command to love one another, and God will live in us; this is the simple yet astonishing message in the gospel readings chosen for this Sunday.

Year A


Gospel reading (Jn. 14: 15-21): If we love Jesus and keep his commands, he will send his Holy Spirit of truth to be with us for ever. When we love Jesus, the Father loves us.

Other readings: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; Ps. 66; and 1 Pet 3: 15-18 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 496-499).

Reflection: Jesus invites us to love him by keeping his commandments. When we love Jesus, the Father loves us and the Spirit is with us. Do we believe that the Trinity — Father, Son, and Spirit — is living in our hearts? How can we let this truth change our way of living and loving?

Prayer: Holy God,
Father, Son, and Spirit of love,
we praise you, thank you, and give you glory.
Remain in our hearts,
and help us to honor you
by loving others and bearing fruit for you.

Action: I will remember that God is living in my heart, and give my praise by the way I live today.

Year B


Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 9-17): Jesus has chosen us to be his friends, to love one another, and to bear lasting fruit for God. Our Lord promises to share his joy with us, and assures us that the Father will give us whatever we ask in Jesus’ name.

Other readings: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps. 98; and 1 Jn. 4: 7-10 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 516-520).

Reflection: Jesus invites us to reflect on his great commandment, to love one another as he has loved us, even to the point of dying for us. As his friends, we are chosen to bear fruit for God. We will share in Jesus’ own joy if we are faithful to his special commandment of love.

Prayer: Holy Father,
with Jesus we give you glory and praise.
With him and in his name,
we ask you to deepen our love
for you and for one another.

Action: As a friend of Jesus, I will ask the Father to help me to love others as Jesus loves me.
Sixth Sunday in the Easter Season

Year C  

Gospel reading (Jn. 14: 23-29): If we love Jesus and keep his commandment, our God will come to us and live in us. Our Lord sends the Spirit to help us to remember all Jesus' teachings. Before returning to his Father, Jesus gives us his gift of peace.

Other readings: Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Ps. 67; and Rev. 21: 10-14, 22-23 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 538-542).

Reflection: Jesus tells us that God is living in us when we love one another. Our Lord offers us a share in his own peace, and promises to send us his Spirit. How often do we think about the Father's presence in our life? about the Spirit in our heart? How often do we ask for Jesus' peace in our times of trouble and need?

Prayer: Loving Father,  

come and live in our hearts.  

Lord Jesus,  

help us to love one another.  

Holy Spirit,  

be with us as our guide and light.  

Holy Trinity,  

Father, Son, and Spirit,  

we give you glory.

Action: I will recognize the presence of the Trinity in my life, and bow my head in silent adoration and prayer.

LITURGICAL LIBRARY

Suggestions for classifying a liturgical library were given in Bulletins 58, pages 121-127, and no. 59, pages 186-192, from Toronto; and in no. 101, pages 316-317, from Edmonton.

The most recent issue of Questions Liturgiques (October-December 1985, Mechelsestraat 202, B-3000, Leuven, Belgium): no. 325, has appended a 20-page section from the Institute Bibliographique de Liturgie. This provides a detailed classification of liturgical books and other related material.

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Sixth Week in the Easter Season

MONDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 15: 26—16: 4): Jesus promises to give the Spirit of truth to the apostles, so that they may bring the gospel to the world.

Reflection: We have the Spirit of truth living in us, helping us to bring Christ's word to the world. How well do we share the Good News about Jesus with other people?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
we thank you for giving us your Spirit of truth.
Give us strength to be your witnesses
by the love we share each day.

Action: I will ask the Spirit of God to give me strength to live today as a witness for Jesus.

TUESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 5b-11): Jesus is leaving his disciples, but promises to send them his Holy Spirit.

Reflection: As followers of Christ, we have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts. Are we listening to the Spirit's word, walking in the Spirit's light?

Prayer: Holy Spirit of Jesus,
be with God's people today,
and help us to follow Jesus
in praising God and living as God's people.

Action: Today I will listen to the Spirit's teaching and follow Jesus in love and service.

WEDNESDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 12-15): Jesus promises to give the Spirit to his followers. The Holy Spirit will give glory to Jesus by teaching us the truth from God.

Reflection: We have the Spirit, who continues to teach us through the scriptures and the living Church. How attentive are we to God's voice?

Prayer: Holy Jesus,
we thank you for sending your Spirit
to live in our hearts.
Guide us by your truth
and help us to follow you with love.

Action: I will listen to God's word with reverence today, and be open to the Spirit's teaching.
THURSDAY

In countries where the Ascension is celebrated today, see page 110, below.

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 16-20): Jesus is leaving his disciples. For a while they will be sad, but they will be filled with joy when they see him again.

Reflection: The risen Christ is present among us, but can be seen only by the eyes of faith. He gives us joy now, and promises unending joy in heaven.

Prayer: Jesus our brother,
fill us with your joy when we are sad,
and give us your Spirit to guide us each day.

Action: I will ask God for joy for myself and for all who are sad.

FRIDAY

Nine days of prayer to the Holy Spirit begin today, as God's people prepare to celebrate Pentecost. See the box on page 110.

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 20-23a): Jesus offers his apostles great, unending joy at the end of their life on earth.

Reflection: Our Lord promises us his joy, but asks us to bear with our sorrows now. He is always with us, especially when we feel sad or burdened. (See also Mt. 11: 28-30.)

Prayer: Jesus,
help us in our time of need.
Be with all who sorrow or are burdened,
and share your joy with all your people.

Action: I will share Jesus' joy with those who are sad, weary, or burdened.

SATURDAY

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 23b-28): Jesus promises us that the Father will give us all we ask in Jesus' name, and so fill us with joy.

Reflection: Do we remember how much God our Father loves us? Do we pray in Jesus' name for our needs and for those of others?

Prayer: Loving God.
we come to you as your beloved people:
we are in need of your help.
Listen to us, loving Father,
for we pray to you in the name of Jesus your Son.

Action: I will ask God in Jesus' name for salvation for all people.
ASCENSION OF THE LORD

In Canada, this feast is celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost. In some other countries, it is celebrated on the previous Thursday, forty days after Easter.

Gospel reading (year A, Mt. 28: 16-20; year B, Mk. 16: 15-20; year C, Lk. 24: 46-53): Jesus sends his apostles to bring his Good News to the whole world. Guided by the Spirit of Jesus, they are to teach and to baptize those who believe, and to encourage all to keep his commandments.

Other readings: Acts 1: 1-11; Ps. 47; and Eph. 1: 17-23 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 543-547).

Reflection: Everyone in the Church, the body of Christ, is invited by Jesus to bring his Good News to all: God loves us, and wants to save us through the dying and rising of Jesus. Our Lord is with God, offering our prayers and gifts with his, and inviting us to share in his worship by our life and our liturgy.

Prayer: Jesus, our brother and our Lord,
seated in glory with God our Father,
we give you praise and thanks.
Be with us always,
and guide us by your Spirit.
Bring our prayers and living sacrifices to God,
for you are our high priest.

Action: I will offer my life, my talents, and my day to Jesus for God's greater glory.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit, in preparation for Pentecost:

    Come, Spirit of life, and brighten our darkness.
    Bring unity into our division,
    forgiveness to our sinfulness,
    healing to our ills.
    Make us strong members of the body of Christ,
    and help us grow in the love of Jesus.
    Come, Holy Spirit, come to your people.

Other prayers to the Holy Spirit are contained in this Bulletin: see pages 107-108 and 113-115.

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1 See General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, no. 7 [3773]. The text is given in the Canadian sacramentary (1983, 1974, CCCB, Ottawa), page 68.

110
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN THE EASTER SEASON

These texts are used when the Ascension is celebrated on the previous Thursday. In Canada, they are always omitted, and replaced by the Ascension of the Lord (see page 110).

On the night before he lays down his life for his brothers and sisters, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father for us, asking that we may be united with him and with one another in faith and love.


Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 1-11): Before he freely lays down his life to save the world, Jesus prays to the Father for his disciples.

Other readings: Acts 1: 12-14; Ps. 27; and 1 Pet. 4: 13-16 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 548-552).

Reflection: Jesus completed his work for the Father. Before he freely dies to save us, he asks God to give unending life to his followers. Jesus wants them to know God, and Jesus Christ who is sent by God to save the world.

Prayer: Father,
with Jesus we give you glory.
Protect all who follow Jesus,
and let them live with you for ever.

Action: I will pray for all who believe in Jesus.


Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 11-19): Jesus prays to the Father for his apostles, and asks God to protect them and to consecrate them in the truth as they are sent into the world.

Other readings: Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; Ps. 103; and 1 Jn. 4: 11-16 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 552-556).

Reflection: Jesus prays for his disciples, and asks God to protect them as they live in the world as his witnesses.

Prayer: Jesus, our brother and our Lord,
we praise you for saving us.
Protect us and all your followers,
consecrate us in the Spirit of your truth,
and help us to be faithful witnesses of your truth for all.

Action: I will pray for all who believe in Jesus as Lord.
Seventh Sunday in the Easter Season


Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 20-26): Jesus prays for all who come to faith in him through the apostles' teaching. He prays that all his followers will be one, as he and the Father are one.

Other readings: Acts 7: 55-60; Ps. 97; and Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 557-560).

Reflection: Jesus is praying for us, asking God to make us one, so that all people will come to recognize Jesus Christ as Lord. What are we doing to promote unity among all Christians?

Prayer: Father of all, we thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Give your Spirit of love to us, and bring all the followers of Jesus into one family, one body.

Action: I will pray for growing unity among all Christians.

WORSHIP '86: CELEBRATING BEM

The Canadian Liturgical Society is planning a symposium on the celebration of baptism, eucharist, and ordination, reflecting on the World Council of Churches document, Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM). The symposium will take place May 20-23, 1986 at King's College, University of Western Ontario, in London.

Planned for the week are six major sessions:

○ Celebration in the historical and theological context of BEM: Rt. Rev. Robert F. Smith;

○ The celebration of baptism: Prof. Charles Davis;

○ The celebration of eucharist: Prof. Monika Hellwig;

○ The celebration of ordination: Prof. Constance Parvey;

○ Pastoral implications, possibilities, and resources: Rev. William Lazareth;

○ Closing overview: Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll.

Registration is now open, and must be completed by April 25, 1986. For information and registration forms, contact:

Prof. James Schmeiser
King's College
266 Epworth Avenue
London, Ontario
N6A 2M3
Seventh Week in the Easter Season

MONDAY

See also Acts 19: 1-8; and Ps. 68

Gospel reading (Jn. 16: 29-33): Though the disciples will desert Jesus for a time, the Father will always remain with him. Jesus has overcome the world, and will bring them his peace.

Reflection: Jesus promises to give us his peace. Do we come to him in time of trouble — personal, family, community, world — and ask for this peace?

Prayer: Jesus, bring your peace to all in need. Place your Spirit of love in our hearts, and let us share in your joys.

Action: I will ask Jesus to bring peace into the hearts of all.

TUESDAY

See also Acts 20: 17-27; and Ps. 68

Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 1-11a): Jesus, savior of all, has given glory to God by his life on earth. Now Jesus himself will be glorified by his dying and rising.

Reflection: By dying and rising in obedience to the Father, Jesus gives glory to God and brings us salvation. Jesus prays for us, because we belong to God.

Prayer: Loving Father, we praise you for glorifying Jesus in his dying and rising. Help us who are baptized in Jesus to die with him to sin and live with him for you.

Action: I will thank God who has saved us by the dying and rising of Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

See also Acts 20: 28-38; and Ps. 68

Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 11b-19): Jesus prays for his apostles, asking God to protect them from the power of evil and to consecrate them in truth.

Reflection: Jesus sends his Church, his people, to be holy. Do we understand what it means to be holy? Are we trying, with God's help, to be holy people?

Prayer: Holy Spirit, come into our hearts and cleanse us from our sins. Teach us to follow Jesus in holiness by loving, serving, and forgiving others.

Action: I will ask the Holy Spirit to help my family to grow in love and holiness.
**Seventh Week in the Easter Season**

**THURSDAY**  
*See also Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11; and Ps. 16*

**Gospel reading (Jn. 17: 20-26):** Jesus prays for all who believe in him, asking that we will be one, so that the world can believe that Jesus is sent by God.

**Reflection:** Christians today are not united, but are trying to work and pray for the unity that Jesus wants. Are we working and praying with Christ to bring Christians in our community together at the same altar?

**Prayer:**  
*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
  one God in three Persons,  
  we praise you and give you glory.  
  Bring all who believe in Jesus into one family of love,  
  and make us one around your altar.*

**Action:** I will pray often for unity among Christians.

**FRIDAY**  
*See also Acts 25: 13-21; and Ps. 103*

**Gospel reading (Jn. 21: 15-19):** Peter proclaims that he loves Jesus, and is told to take care of all the members of Christ's flock. Peter's death will bring glory to God.

**Reflection:** Can we answer with Peter that we love Jesus? Are we trying to live with Jesus for God's glory? Are we ready to die with him for the glory of our God?

**Prayer:**  
*Lord Jesus, you know how we love you.  
  Send your Spirit into our hearts  
  to deepen our love for you,  
  and help us to live with you for God's glory.*

**Action:** I will pray for help to love Jesus with all my heart.

**SATURDAY MORNING**  
*See also Acts 28: 16-28, 30-31; and Ps. 11*

**Gospel reading (Jn. 21: 20-25):** Each disciple has a particular call, but all are to follow Jesus. The scriptures tell us the truth about our Lord, inviting us to believe in him.

**Reflection:** Each of us is called in a special, unique, personal way to serve God. Do we encourage family and friends to serve God with all their talents? Are we letting others blossom and grow according to God's call?

**Prayer:**  
*Holy Spirit of Jesus,  
  giver of gifts to all God's children,  
  help each of us to use our talents for the glory of God  
  and for the salvation of all the world.*

**Action:** I will work to develop the talents God has given me for the benefit of the body of Christ.
SATURDAY EVENING:  PENTECOST VIGIL

Gospel reading (Jn. 7: 37-39): On the final day of the feast of Booths, Jesus speaks to the people about the Spirit. Those who believe in Jesus receive the Spirit of Jesus.

Other readings: Gen. 11: 1-9, or Exod. 19: 3-8, 16-20, or Ezek. 37: 1-14, or Joel 3: 1-5; Ps. 104; and Rom. 8: 22-27 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 561-567).

Reflection: We believe in Jesus, and we have received his Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus lives in our hearts, keeping the life of Jesus alive in us. We are invited to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and to ask for the Spirit’s gifts for ourselves and all members of the Church.

Prayer:  

Holy Spirit of Jesus,  
living in our hearts,  
accept our prayers of love.  

Fill our hearts with your gifts:  
light and vigor, love and courage, peace and joy,  
and eagerness to build up God’s kingdom on earth.

Spirit of God,  
renew the face of this earth.  
Lead all people and all cultures  
to work with Jesus in giving glory to the Father  
and in saving this world.

Action: I will welcome the Spirit of Jesus, living in my heart, and pray for the Spirit’s gifts.

* * *

Some titles for the Holy Spirit in the four gospels:

- Holy Spirit  (Mk. 1: 8)
- Spirit  (Mk. 1: 10)
- Spirit of God  (Mt. 3: 16)
- Spirit of your Father  (Mt. 10: 20)
- Power of the Most High  (Lk. 1: 35)
- Finger of God  (Lk. 11: 20)
- Power from on high  (Lk. 24: 49)
- Fountains of living water  (Jn. 7: 38)
- Advocate  (Jn. 14: 16)
- Spirit of truth  (Jn. 14: 17)

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Gospel reading (Jn. 20: 19-23): On the first Easter Sunday evening, Jesus gives the Spirit to his apostles. He gives them his peace and joy, and sends them in the same way he was sent by the Father. Jesus gives them the Spirit so that they may forgive sins and bring people back to God.

Other readings: Acts 2: I-II; Ps. 104; and 1 Cor. 12: 3-7, 12-13 (see Sunday Mass Book, pages 568-573).

Reflection: In our baptism and confirmation Jesus has given us his Spirit. We too share in our Lord’s peace and joy. We too are sent by Jesus, to work with him in giving glory to God and in saving the world. We too have been forgiven our sins. Do we recognize that the Holy Spirit is living within us to bring us these gifts of Jesus and to help us to carry out his work?

Prayer: Jesus, you are Lord, you are our brother:
with you we praise and thank our heavenly Father
for all the gifts of creation and grace.
We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Help us to be your true followers,
open to your peace and joy and forgiveness,
and proclaiming to the world by our love
that you are our brother, our savior, our Lord.

To you be glory for ever and ever. Amen!

Action: I will recognize the Spirit of Jesus living in my heart, and ask for strength to proclaim Jesus as Lord by the way I live each day.

* * *

Back to ordinary time: On Monday we resume ordinary time. We continue to live as members of the body of Christ and the people of God, renewed and refreshed and challenged by our sharing in the Easter mystery of Jesus Christ.

The Sunday gospels guide us as we move forward with Jesus and his Church. In year A (1987, 1990 . . .), Matthew’s gospel helps us to follow Jesus, the great teacher, and to be his faithful Church. In year B (1988, 1991 . . .), Mark’s gospel teaches us the need to share in Jesus’ suffering in order that we may share in his glory. In year C (1986, 1989 . . .), Luke’s gospel challenges us to be open to the mercy of God, to let the Spirit of Jesus lead us and all God’s people. Every year, especially in the Christmas and Easter seasons, John’s gospel shows us the ways God is working in Jesus and in our lives.
OTHER NOTES

Other celebrations

The Sundays of the Easter season are the most important celebrations in the great fifty days, and most emphasis is to be placed on celebrating them well. In the life of a parish or other community, however, other celebrations will take place during this time. These too should be permeated with the spirit of the Easter season.

Mary and the saints: Celebrations honoring the saints, especially on their feast days, are celebrations of the Easter mystery of Jesus. Read the Constitution on the liturgy, nos. 103-104 [103-104]. How can our celebrations reflect this spirit?

Morning and evening prayers: Each parish could provide at least one celebration each week, and invite people to join in the prayer of the Church. If this has been done during Lent, it is worthwhile to continue its celebration during the Easter season. Families could be invited to pray morning or evening prayer in a simple form occasionally: see Family Book of Prayer, pages 5-11; or Sunday Mass Book, pages 1299-1302.

Sacraments of initiation for children: The sacraments of initiation are baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Where possible, those who are to celebrate them do so during the Easter season, and in this way may be helped to see the connection between their initiation and the rites at the Easter vigil.

Funerals: The Second Vatican Council asked that the “paschal character” of the death of Christians be made more evident in the funeral rites (see Liturgy constitution, no. 81 [81]). Easter elements in the rites include the Easter candle, blessed water, the white pall, white vestments, and the frequent mention of the Easter mystery in the prayers.

Blessings and other rites: Some suggestions and celebrations for the Easter season are given in Bulletin 102, pages 49-51, and on pages 72-77 above.
Ecumenical celebrations: The week of prayer for Christian unity may take place around Pentecost; even if it was celebrated in January, some parallel celebrations may take place in the community. The Easter season provides positive opportunities for Christians of different Churches to celebrate their common faith in baptism and to give thanks to God.

* * *

Liturgy committees are invited to consider these and other ways of marking the Easter season, and of celebrating it fully in accord with its spirit. The seasonal liturgies are indeed rich, and are waiting to be shared with God's people in each believing community.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR MUSICIANS

A summer school for liturgical musicians will be held at St. Michael's College in Toronto, August 10-15, 1986. Sponsored by the Ontario Liturgical Conference, this week is for parish musicians, clergy, and everyone else interested in developing a better understanding of the place of music in our liturgy.

The program includes a choice of liturgy input sessions, music skills, choir, and focus sessions, with daily celebrations of prayer. Each person registered has opportunities to follow his or her choices during the week.

Keynote speaker is Robert Batastini, general editor of GIA Publications. Other instructors bringing a rich variety of talents and skills are Kathleen Bennett, George Black, Larry Folk, Gloria Gassi, Barry Glendinning, Jim Hutton; Murray Kroetsch, Fred Moleck, Robert Palango, Henry Papale, Joan Patano; Mona Pitt, Claude Poirier, Chris Pokdanowicz, Sr. Mary Sammon, and Ray Sealey.

For further information and registration, contact:

Ontario Liturgical Conference
700 King St. W.
Hamilton, ON
L8P 1C7 (416) 528-7989
### Calendar: 1986-2005

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Proclaiming the Passion: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, edited by George R. Szews (1985, Office of Sacred Worship, Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004): paper, 8½ by 11 inches, iii, 44 pages. $9.00 each, or $35.00 for four, plus 15% postage and handling.  

Previously published one year at a time and reviewed in earlier issues of the Bulletin, the four passion narratives are now gathered into one book. Many suggestions are offered for readers, planners, and musicians to heighten the dramatic proclamation without losing its dignity and clarity. The text is NAB, but is not arranged in senselines. Parishes and communities concerned about good liturgy could benefit from this publication.


Using redaction criticism together with other approaches employed by modern scholars, the author seeks to give us "a fresh, useful, and timely perspective" (page i) on Luke's account of the Lord's suffering and death. He looks at the theology found in this gospel, and helps us to see how the third gospel views the savior. With Luke, the author lets Acts influence the meaning and expression of the passion narrative.

Six chapters provide background on the last supper, garden, trials, address to the women of Jerusalem, crucifixion, and Jesus' faith. Each chapter gives parallel reflections from the scriptures, and invites us to meditate on God's love for us shown in Jesus. The faith and obedience of Christ as the new Adam are seen as the source of our salvation.

Written for those who are at home with the bible, this book is recommended for students of theology and liturgy, clergy, and all who wish to reflect more fully on the Easter mystery of the Lord Jesus.


This compact book contains the order of Mass, printed in two colors at the beginning, on stronger paper; an introduction and texts for each Sunday and the Easter triduum, along with music for the psalm refrain and gospel acclamation, and intercessions for personal or family prayer; reflections on liturgical renewal; a selection of prayers; and 51 hymns. Layout is clear and uncluttered throughout. Helpful for prayer and preparation for the Sunday liturgy.


After recognizing that sacraments are based on words and signs in our life and in the scriptures, we look at Christ as the sacrament of God's presence and the Church as the sacrament of our risen Lord. Then the author considers each of the sacraments: its human sign and basis, and how God uses these as a means of sharing life with us. The book is clearly written and sound in its approach. Recommended as a helpful book for college, senior high school, and adult study groups, as well as for catechists and interested adults. It would also provide useful insights for clergy and for those working with catechumens.

1 Prices for U.S. publications are given in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted. For all publications, postage and handling are usually extra.
Collegeville Bible Commentary: first six numbers (1985, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 56321; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4C 1K1): paper, illustrations. $3.50 (Canadian) for each booklet:

* No. 1: Introduction to the Bible, by Dianne Bergant, CSA. 136 pages.

* No. 2: Genesis, by Pauline A. Vivaldo. 136 pages.

* No. 3: Exodus, by John F. Craghan. 112 pages.

* No. 4: Leviticus, by Wayne A. Turner. 88 pages.

* No. 5: Numbers, by Helen Kenik Mainelli. 136 pages.

* No. 6: Deuteronomy, by Leslie J. Hoppe, OFM. 104 pages.

This series seeks to bring the discoveries of modern scripture studies to those who are beginners in this field. The first booklet provides a general introduction to the bible, its canon, inspiration, texts, versions, interpretation, and criticism. The others give the NAB text and a commentary on the five books of the Pentateuch.

Each booklet contains helpful illustrations, useful aids for review, and topics for discussion. The writing is clear, and students, catechists, clergy, readers, and preachers will find these a valuable resource for reflection and prayer with God's word.

The People of the Creed: The Story Behind the Early Church, by Anthony E. Gilles (1985, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1615 Republic St., Cincinnati, OH 45210; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4C 1K1): softbound, glossary, index, xi, 170 pages. $8.65 (Canadian).

From the death of the last apostle around 95 to the year 600, the author expresses the history of the Christian Church in terms of the lives of ordinary people: their creeds, their worship, and the important events of their times. Simply and clearly written, this book can be useful for high school and college courses, for catechists, and for families interested in the life and growth of the Church.


The author of Worship, Reformed According to Scripture (see review in Bulletin 98, page 126), is a pastor who shares his sermons with us. Based on the tradition — both Catholic and Reformed — of continuous reading of a book of the scriptures, the preaching covers the four Sundays before Christmas and the two after. While those whose Churches have a fixed Sunday lectionary are not free to choose any book, they may be helped by seeing what can be done with the continuous series already assigned. The introduction provides many ideas for reflection and for examination of conscience by all who preach on the Lord's day.


After tracing the development of the sacraments of initiation and then their "disintegration and dismemberment" in the Roman Church, Austin looks at current reforms in the Roman Catholic, Anglican (U.S.A.), and some American Protestant Churches. He also studies the new rites of blessing oils and consecrating chrism, and their use in the dedication of a church.

Speaking of the Roman rite, he points out: "Our present separation of the three sacraments of initiation is more than just a departure from the early liturgical tradition. It is a theological impoverishment" (page 128). The final chapter faces this problem directly, and offers seven guidelines for possible reforms, beginning with changes of attitude toward baptism, confirmation, and eucharist.

This volume, which is part of Pueblo's series of Studies in the Reformed Rites of the Catholic Church, is recommended as a most valuable book for serious reading by bishops, clergy, catechetical and liturgical commissions, and students of liturgy.

A sequel to the first volume in the Stimulus series, Studies in Judaism and Christianity (see review in Bulletin 94, page 190), this book provides us with another 34 useful documents, including five outside the years in the subtitle: from 1947, 1967, 1984 (two), and 1985. Catholic and Protestant documents from various parts of the world and from different levels of jurisdiction show the gradual growth of awareness and of willingness to begin to work for an end to prejudice and for good relations between Jews and Christians. Recommended as most helpful for all who are working to promote better relations.


The author shares insights from many teachers, Eastern and Western, as he helps us to look at prayerfulness. By expanding our understanding of the human roots of prayer — questioning, wonder, silence, relationships, and so on — he encourages us to be open to prayerful experiences in our daily living. Helpful to all who wish to explore prayer in their life.

The Road Home: Five True Stories of Catholics Who Returned to the Church, by Mark Neilsen (1985, Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057): softbound, 95 pages. $2.95

The intense feelings of real people who have left the Catholic Church in pain, their gradual finding of themselves, and their return: these five accounts touch the heart, and invite us to reflect on the many ways in which God's grace is given to us. Recommended for Catholics and for those who have left the Church.


This is a completely new book, intended for those who plan Sunday celebrations during Lent and the Easter season, and for those involved in the Christian initiation of adults. We are helped to appreciate the richness of these seasons, their rites, texts, and readings, and are invited to benefit from them and share them with all members of our community in better preaching and celebrations. Prepared for use each year, this helpful booklet is for every liturgy committee and for clergy. Order now for this year and next, and ask about Paschal Mission, Sunday leaflets for distribution each week between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost.

The Celebration of Marriage for Optional Use in The United Church of Canada (1985, UCC, 85 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4T 1M8): paper, two colors, 42 pages.

Prepared as a supplement to the Service Book of 1969, this rite offers two celebrations, one for active, believing Christians, and another which is less explicit in its theology but still reflecting the Church's faith. The first rite may be celebrated within the eucharist. Both forms are pastorally sensitive, and reflect modern developments in liturgy and theology in the major Christian Churches in North America. Guidelines for good celebration, suggested scripture readings, and notes on appropriate music complete this helpful booklet. Recommended for study by all interested in current liturgical developments in the celebration of marriage, and in ecumenism.


Brief, relaxed, humorous reflections by a housewife on daily events at home lead to a short prayer. Mothers of families may wish to keep a copy in the kitchen.
Book of the Elect (1985, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN 56321; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 1K1): hard cover, 9 1/2 by 13 1/2 inches, 2-color illustrations, red and black, 1 ribbon, 128 pages. $34.95 (U.S.), $49.95 (Canadian).

This is indeed a worthy record book for use in the rite of election each year on the first Sunday in Lent, when the catechumens are admitted to their final weeks of preparation for the sacraments of initiation at the Easter vigil. The cover is padded, wine in color, with a gold cross on the front. When the book is opened, one of ten designs in a Byzantine style is on the left, and the right page has room for 14 names of Those Called to the Sacraments of Initiation, with the date and the bishop's signature. An enclosed booklet reprints pastoral notes and a copy of the rite of election. Recommended for every cathedral, and for other churches where the rite is celebrated.

I Give You Me: A Program of Good News for Married Love, by Michael R. Prieur (1979, Catechetical Communications, Box 3095, Bethlehem, PA 18017; available in Canada from Guided Study Programs, Box 2400, London, ON N6A 4G3): introductory booklet and six booklets, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, 30-36 pages each. $15.00 (Canadian) per set.

After being used for some years in London Diocese, this program has been newly issued in a convenient format for married couples. They look at the teaching of the bible and of the Church on the beauty and importance of marriage, at problems confronting couples today, and are helped to grow in personal and family prayer. Recommended as a helpful program for couples and for parish or community groups.


In 1979, after years of careful study, preparation, and revision, the Episcopal (Anglican) Church in the United States of America issued a modern Book of Common Prayer. Canon Mitchell brings his knowledge and experience as a pastor and seminary professor to show us how BCP, with its texts and its rites, enables Episcopalians to worship in union with the Church of the past and present. The experience of good worship forms or shapes the faith of the worshippers, and this book explores the richness of the liturgy which they share and celebrate. Recommended for students of liturgy, and for all interested in ecumenism and in modern liturgical developments.


On Sunday and Friday of Holy Week each year, we listen to the proclamation of the passion narratives, and are helped to enter into the meaning and experience of the paschal mystery of Jesus. With his usual clarity, precision, insight, and faith, Fr. Brown helps us in these essays to understand the background and significance of the passion narratives, and to recognize the unique portrayals of Jesus in these accounts. Recommended as helpful for all Christians as prayerful lenten reading, and for those who preach on or proclaim these texts.

The Blessed Virgin: Her Life and Her Role in Our Lives, by Clifford Stevens (1985, OSV, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 1K1): softbound, illustrations, index, 182 pages. $10.00 (Canadian).

After presenting the gospel details and the places in Mary's life, the book goes on "to put her into the theological context of the People of God, and to show her place in Catholic thought, life and devotion" (page 9). A helpful and reverent book for believers.

For twenty years, the Grail version has been used in our public prayer. Now, as requested by many, it has been revised slightly to use inclusive language with regard to humans. Ps. 1 now begins: “Happy indeed are those.” In Ps. 8 we pray: “What are we that you should keep us in mind?” The changes are minimal, but definitely a positive contribution to community praying. The Messianic psalms retain their specific language, and all the texts are still able to be sung to the Gelineau tunes. This book is a good step forward, and will extend the useful life of the Grail psalter for years to come. All who are interested in praying the psalms and the liturgy of the hours will benefit from regular use of this book.


The Church’s warm and complete welcome for developmentally disabled people is clearly outlined in these guidelines for admission to baptism, confirmation, eucharist, and reconciliation. Recommended as encouraging and helpful for clergy, catechists, and parents.


The standard U.S. version of the Sunday missal, with NAB readings and a variety of prayers, is presented in a large print format. The Order of Mass is in red and black. Helpful for those who find it difficult to read smaller print.


A modern, smooth flowing translation of this classic from the late middle ages is presented in large type. People with poor sight who wish to read the Imitation will find this edition makes their task much easier.

Inheriting the Master's Cloak: Creative Biblical Spirituality, by John Wijngaards, MHM (1985, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN 46556; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 1K1): softbound, 191 pages. $7.20 (Canadian).

We are invited to enter the rich spiritual world of the Hebrew scriptures (our Old Testament), and let ourselves be guided by God's teaching, and so grow in wisdom and grace. These simple, clear, and positive reflections will be enjoyed by all who want to grow in their spirituality.

What Do You Seek? Jesus Answers Modern Man, by William F. Maestri (1985, OSV, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46750; available in Canada from B. Broughton, 2105 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ON M4C 1K1): softbound, ix, 165 pages. $10.00 (Canadian).

Jesus often taught people by asking them questions, challenging them to go more fully into the meaning of the topic. The author explores sixteen questions which Jesus asked his listeners, and invites us to answer them in our living. Despite the exclusive language in the title, this book is helpful for personal, family, and group reflection and prayer.
COURSES IN PASTORAL LITURGY

Good courses in liturgy are being offered in North America. Some of these are given during the summer, some during the school year, and some in shorter institutes. Further information may be obtained by writing to the following:

- Program of Liturgical Studies
  Department of Theology
  University of Notre Dame
  Notre Dame, IN 46556

- The Graduate School
  St. John's University
  Collegeville, MN 56321

- School of Religious Studies
  The Catholic University of America
  Washington, DC 20064

- The Georgetown Center for Liturgy, Spirituality and the Arts
  3514 "O" Street, NW
  Washington, DC 20007

- Aquinas Institute
  3642 Lindell Boulevard
  St. Louis, MO 63108

- Program of Church Music and Liturgy
  St. Joseph's College
  Rensselaer, IN 47978

- The Center for Pastoral Liturgy
  The Catholic University of America
  Washington, DC 20064

- Liturgical Studies
  The Graduate School
  Drew University
  Madison, NJ 07940

- Institute for Spirituality and Worship
  Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley
  1735 Le Roy Ave.
  Berkeley, CA 94709

* * *

- Irish Institute for Pastoral Liturgy, approved by the Irish hierarchy: A one-year program, commencing each September. Four areas of specialization: Church lectures in scriptures, theology, human sciences, music, art, and architecture. Arrangements may also be made for shorter periods of time.

  Application should be made early to Rev. S. Swayne, Director, Irish Institute of Pastoral Liturgy, College St., Carlow, Ireland.

- JOURNEY is a guided study program in the scriptures: lessons 1-20 deal with the Hebrew scriptures, our Old Testament; lessons 21-40 are on the gospels and other principal writings of the New Testament. Both are available in French under the name MONTEE. A new program for married couples, I Give You Me, is reviewed on page 123, above.

  For further information and application forms, contact Guided Study Programs, Box 2400, London, ON N6A 4G3.
Survey:
youth and liturgy

The topic for Bulletin 106 in November 1986 is *Youth and Liturgy*. In preparation for this issue, we would like to hear the thoughts of some Canadian young people from 16 to 25 years of age. The questions on these pages offer an opportunity for youth to express themselves on the subject of prayer and worship. These pages may be duplicated¹ and circulated widely in parishes, schools, camps, groups, and other communities. The more responses we receive by the end of May 1986, the better we can reflect the feelings of youth on liturgy today.

1. **Some facts about you:**
   - **Age:** ______
   - **Single □  Married □**

   *If several people answer this form together, please add a page with the information in question 1 for each person.*

   - **Presently at high school □  technical school □  CEGEP □**
   - **university □  college □  work □  unemployed □**
   - **Live with parents □  school residence □  alone □**
   - **with other students or workers □**

2. **About the bible:**
   - **I own a bible □  New Testament □  book of psalms □**
   - **In the past month, I have used one of them about _____ times:**
     - **for prayer □  reading □  reference □  study □**
   - **I would like to learn more about the bible as God's word today:**
     - **spoken to us □  for use in prayer □  as used in church □**

3. **About your prayer:**
   - **Pray each morning □  each night □  at mealtimes □**
   - **Pray for self in times of need □  at other times □**
   - **Pray for others in times of need □  at other times □**
   - **Pray alone □  pray with others □**
   - **where? ________________

¹ Excerpts from National Bulletin on Liturgy, no. 103 (March-April 1986), copyright © Concacan Inc. 1986. These pages, 126-128, may be reproduced freely until May 31, 1986, for survey purposes.
4. About Mass:
• In the past year, took part in Sunday Mass about ____ times
• In the past month, took part in Sunday Mass about _____ times:
  in parish ☐ in school ☐ other place: where?
• In the past month, took part in other liturgies:
  weekday Mass about ____ times
  other liturgies: what kinds? __________________________

5. Preparation:
• What do you do to prepare yourself for Sunday Mass?
  read over Sunday readings ☐ discuss readings with others ☐
  prayer ☐ offer up my daily life as my gift to God ☐ Other: ___
• Is taking part in the liturgy leading you to change your life? Yes ☐ No ☐
  Or are you just carrying on life as usual? __________________________

6. What do you think about these parts of the liturgy?
• Music: __________________________________________
• Preaching: ______________________________________
• Gestures and actions: ______________________________
• Art and symbols: _________________________________

7. What do you like most about the liturgies you've taken part in?
   a) __________________________________________
      why? ________________________________
   b) __________________________________________
      why? ________________________________
   c) __________________________________________
      why? ________________________________
   d) __________________________________________
      why? ________________________________

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8. What do you dislike most about these liturgies?
   a) ___________________________________________
      why? _______________________________________
   b) ___________________________________________
      why? _______________________________________
   c) ___________________________________________
      why? _______________________________________

9. What changes would you like to see in our liturgy?
   a) ___________________________________________
   b) ___________________________________________
   c) ___________________________________________
   d) ___________________________________________

10. Sharing your talents:
      o What talents and gifts have you to share with your parish or school community?

      o Have you offered to share these? Yes □ No □
      o With what results? _______________________________________

11. Other Christians:
      o What do you think about the present separation of Christians?

      o What are you doing to help Christians to become one?
        praying □ getting to know other Christians □
        praying with them □ knowing our Catholic faith better □
        trying to live as a good Christian □ other actions: __________

12. Any other suggestions in these areas?
      o Prayer: _______________________________________
      o Worship, liturgy: _________________________________
      o Christian living: ________________________________
      o Other: _______________________________________________________________________

Please mail your answers
by May 31, 1986 to: National Liturgical Office
90 Parent Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 7B1