



DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 2, 2016

Welcome Letter from the Most Rev. David L. Ricken, DD, JCL - Bishop of Green Bay

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It gives me great pleasure to join my brother bishops of the United States in welcoming with my full support the newly revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (formerly entitled the *Rite of Marriage*) for use in our Diocese starting December 30, 2016.

Following several years of preparation, on February 2, 2016, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a Decree of Publication that the new text for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be in mandatory use “as of December 30, 2016, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. From that day forward, no other English edition of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* may be used in the diocese of the United States” with books now being printed for release in early Fall.

While other dioceses may begin to implement the new edition earlier in the Fall, in the Diocese of Green Bay we will wait until the December 30th implementation date in order to adequately prepare for the next text.

Beyond a new translation of the text, similar to the new Roman Missal in 2010, the new edition includes:

- An expanded Introduction (*Praenotanda*) with new commentary on the theology of the sacrament and marriage preparation;
- Instructions regarding the Procession / Gathering;
- New Ritual Texts for an Introduction and Collects;
- Removal of the Penitential Rite and addition of the Gloria (to match the current Roman Missal);
- Options for the Reception of Consent;
- New Assembly Acclamation/Response;
- Insertions for the Eucharistic Prayers (to match the current Roman Missal)
- Musical notation for the Nuptial Blessing options;
- Inclusion of the Our Father within the “The Order of Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian”;
- Three new appendices:
 - Sample Prayer of the Faithful.
 - Blessing an Engaged Couple (new translation)
 - Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage.” (new translation);

- and two cultural adaptations commonly used among Spanish-speaking communities:
 - The blessing and giving of arras (coins) and
 - the blessing and imposition of either the lazo (a wedding cord or lasso) or the veil before the Nuptial Blessing.

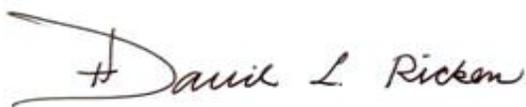
Just as the recent third edition of the *Roman Missal* allowed us to focus on the liturgical practices in our parishes, so too does the new edition of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* allow us the opportunity to review our understanding and practices of the Sacrament of Matrimony. I call upon all priests, deacons, pastoral leaders, liturgists, liturgical musicians, and all those involved in liturgical preparation to carefully study and recognize the theology that is present in the texts.

There are four pillars to the theology of Matrimony found in these new texts. You will notice a renewed emphasis on marriage as a true *covenant*. Previously the word *covenant* was scarcely present in the rites. The texts also emphasize that the nature of marriage between two Christians is a *Sacrament* whereby a particular grace is imparted. Attention is drawn to the fact that marriage entails *inseparable love*. Finally, the *fruitfulness* of marriage is highlighted both in its relation to bringing forth children, and the spiritual role of the married couple to build up and serve the Church. The texts of the rite are very useful for preparing couples. After being catechized on these four pillars by the minister preparing them, the couple themselves would be able to identify where these four truths are powerfully expressed in the rite.

To assist us with welcoming this new edition, the Office of Divine Worship will be hosting a comprehensive workshop on October 12, 2016, at the Rock Garden Conference Center in Green Bay, WI. I encourage you to join us for this full day of preparation and study with others from across the Diocese. In addition, the Office will be offering discounts on printed copies of the text and a variety of useful resources this August. For more information please visit <http://www.gbdioc.org/departments/divine-worship.html>.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience as we prepare for this exciting opportunity for our local Church, as I remain

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Ricken". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning of the first name.

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, DD, JCL
Bishop of Green Bay