

14. March 2016  
Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent

Pastors, Pastoral Coordinators, Deacons, and others:

I pray that your Lenten observances have thus far been fruitful in preparing to celebrate the coming paschal feasts. As you may know, in November 2013, the USCCB approved the English translation for the **revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony***. We have received word from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) that last month, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the USCCB, issued a Decree of Publication for the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. He wrote that this ritual text “may be published and used in the Liturgy as of September 8, 2016, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and its **use is mandatory 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.”

The Office for Liturgy is working with the FDLC on hosting a northwest regional workshop on the revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*. **This workshop will take place on Friday, May 27 for clergy** and will be repeated on **Saturday, May 28 for other ministers** at Holy Family Catholic Church in Kirkland beginning at 8:30am and concluding at 3:30pm. These workshops are intended for clergy, liturgists, musicians, and parish leaders who actively prepare couples for marriage and those responsible for the celebration of Matrimony. **Clergy are welcome to register** for the Friday workshop or attend with their marriage preparation team on Saturday.

Topics that will be covered include:

- What's new in the second edition? What has stayed the same?
- The Theology of Marriage
- Duties and Ministries
- Pastoral Preparation of Engaged Couples
- The Elements of the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (within Mass, without Mass, and between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian)
- Principles of Preparing the Wedding Liturgy
- Music for the Wedding Liturgy

...and more with plenty of time for discussion and questions.

Online registration is required and will soon be available at: [www.fdlc.org/marriage-rite-workshops](http://www.fdlc.org/marriage-rite-workshops) with a cost of \$55 per person to include lunch, USCCB presenter costs, and workshop materials.

In the meantime, a great resource to preorder is “One Love: A Pastoral Guide to the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*” by Fr. Paul Turner (Liturgical Press): <https://www.litpress.org/Products/4923/One-Love>

Thank you for your patience and continuing support as we implement this new liturgical text in the Archdiocese. Please let me know if you have any questions and if the Liturgy Office may be of assistance to your worship and initiation ministries. I may be reached at (206) 382-4838 or by email at: [Andrew.Casad@seattlearch.org](mailto:Andrew.Casad@seattlearch.org)

I look forward to seeing you at the Chrism Mass on Thursday.

Respectfully in Christ,

Andrew Casad, MTS, MA  
Director of the Office for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Seattle