



## Baptismal Validity:

Diocesan Bishops in the U.S. received a notice dated March 1, 2008 from Cardinal



William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF), regarding liberties some clergy have incorporated during the celebration of the Rite of Baptism.

Some have changed the prescribed baptismal formulary “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” to “I baptize you in the name of the *Creator*, and of the *Redeemer*, and of the *Sanctifier*”, or “I baptize you in the name of the *Creator*, and the *Liberator*, and of the *Sustainer*.” The question was posed to the CDF whether baptisms which incorporated these alternate and unapproved formularies were valid. The response given was negative.

A second question was posed to the CDF regarding the pastoral action to be taken if and when persons were baptized with these unapproved formularies. The CDF affirmed that persons baptized in these circumstances would need to be baptized *in forma absoluta*. In other words, persons in this situation would need to be baptized with the approved rite and formulary to validate the discrepancy. Alteration of the prescribed

formularly texts should be avoided entirely and situations where this has been done corrected as soon as possible.

The seriousness of such a practice also brings to mind other alternate practices that emerge during the celebration of the Rite of Baptism. One in particular that also brings into question the validity of the sacrament is the ritual pouring of water or immersion. It is reserved to the one baptizing, not parents, godparents or any other person to pour the water by infusion or to immerse the one to be baptized. This, too, puts the validity of the sacrament into question since the verbal recitation and act of pouring water or immersing the one to be baptized is the sole responsibility of the person charged to preside at the Church’s sacramental rites.

Those entrusted with the oversight of baptismal preparation and the celebration of the sacraments in local parishes may wish to reread the introductory texts and rubrical notes to the Rites to assure their proper and valid celebration.

## 2008 International Eucharistic Congress:

While most transportation and housing plans have been secured for the 2008 International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, Canada at this point in time, any parishes or groups that will be attending the event from the Diocese of Toledo (June 15-22, 2008) are asked to contact Fr. Charles Singler,

director of the Office of Worship and Liturgical Music. We are hoping to have a gathering point for the Catholic faithful who will be attending from the Toledo diocese at the Eucharistic Congress. Call 419-244-6711, ext. 505.

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### Summer Liturgy Conference:

The Notre Dame Center for Liturgy has announced its 2008 summer conference entitled: **The Forgotten Sacraments: Marriage, Holy Orders, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick**, June 16-18, 2008. Keynote speaker: Sister Joyce Ann Zimmerman, C.P.P.S. on the topic: *The Sacraments: Rooted in the Paschal Mystery, Celebrated in Community*. Other speakers include: Msgr. John Kasza (Anointing of the Sick), Rev. Mr. James Keating (Reconciliation), Rev. Bob Barron (Holy Orders), Julie Rubio (Marriage). For more information on this conference and housing contact: [www.liturgy.nd.edu](http://www.liturgy.nd.edu)

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### Church Art and Architecture:

A new online resource called **EnVisionChurch** concerned with liturgy, spirituality, and sacred art and architecture has been developed by the Georgetown Center for Liturgy, Washington, D.C. The site creates a forum for learning and networking for anyone who is interested in the construction, renovation, and/or design of worship spaces, the creation of artwork, the enhancing of spaces for the liturgical seasons and other occasions, the celebration of liturgical rites, the interrelationship between art, architecture, liturgy and spirituality. Membership is free and registering takes less than one minute. Contact: [www.envisionchurch.org](http://www.envisionchurch.org)

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### Summer Funeral Rites Workshop

Bereavement Action Committee of Toledo Catholic Charities is sponsoring a **Funeral Rites Workshop**



presented by Fr. Charles Singler, Director of the Office of Worship & Liturgical Music at three sites: Saturday, August 16, 2008 – Catholic Center in Toledo (10 AM – Noon); Tuesday,

August 19, 2008 – St. Mary's, Defiance (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM); Thursday, August 21, 2008 – Sts. Peter and Paul, Sandusky (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM). Presentation will include the historical, theological and pastoral considerations regarding the Catholic Funeral rites. Contact: [gkirk@toledodiocese.org](mailto:gkirk@toledodiocese.org) or 419-244-6711, ext. 431.

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### Weddings on the Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, 2008

Due to the fact that the Solemnity of All Saints in 2008 lands on a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated this year. However, the liturgical feast, ranked as a solemnity, is still celebrated. Daily Masses celebrated on November 1, 2008 should incorporate the protocol indicated for the solemnity as indicated in the Ordo. Funeral Masses are permitted on the Solemnity of All Saints this year. If a wedding Mass is celebrated on this solemnity, the orations (including the singing of the Gloria and recitation of the creed) are to be used. The Rite of Marriage follows after the homily. (Cf. Rite of Marriage, art. 11).

Please route this communication to the appropriate staff person:

\_\_\_\_\_Pastor      \_\_\_\_\_Associate Pastor  
\_\_\_\_\_Pastoral Associate  
\_\_\_\_\_Liturgy Coordinator