

2009 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions



LITURGICAL FORMATION
WITH ZEAL AND PATIENCE

October 6-9

Inn at St. Johns' and St. John's Retreat Center
Plymouth, Michigan

Proposed Position Statements

The following position statements have been proposed by various regions of the FDLC for presentation to the delegates at the National Meeting. They have not been adopted formally by the Federation. Until a position statement is presented to the delegates during a business session, it belongs to the region proposing it. During the National Meeting, position statements may be amended or even withdrawn. These statements, therefore, are presented here in order to stimulate discussion in preparation for the business sessions of the National Meeting. Those statements receiving a passing vote at the meeting are thereby adopted formally by the Federation and will be published after the conclusion of the National Meeting.

Position Statement 2009/1

TOPIC: Regional Structure of the FDLC

RATIONALE:

In recent years the Board of Directors of the FDLC has engaged in discussions of its concerns regarding the finances of the Federation, membership statistics (including the reality that the number of dioceses having Offices of Worship and/or Liturgical Commissions is diminishing) and attendance at national meetings.

According to the records of the Board, there is a diminishing return in numbers of active Offices and Commissions. This is reflected in the inability of some dioceses to pay dues and also by the smaller number of dioceses able to attend the National Meetings.

In January 2005, with a concern for the Federation's ability to fulfill its mission, the Board of the Federation devoted itself to evaluating and reforming its strategic goals and the means for achieving those goals. Among the goals are: "To achieve a balanced budget and increase revenue." and "To enhance and strengthen opportunities for networking among membership."

In its current regional structure the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions comprises 12 regions. The regions range from the smallest having 8 dioceses to the largest having 27 dioceses. The Catholic population represented by each region is similarly unequal. The ratio of the number of board representatives to the number of dioceses in each region is also uneven. Every region has two representatives on the board and two votes at Board meetings. However, the regions do not have an equal number of votes at the Business Sessions of National Meetings. This is a significant disparity. (Please see the accompanying chart.) Throughout the country, dioceses are re-examining their structure and distribution of resources. This is usually a realistic response to shifting populations, diminishment of personnel and limited revenue sources. Many of our dioceses are re-structuring in response to the reality of the

The National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions is co-sponsored by the
Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and the
USCCB Committee on Divine Worship.



Proposed Position Statements

times. The USCCB, to which the FDLC has a particular connection through the Bishops' Committee of Divine Worship, has also engaged in some necessary restructuring in order to fulfill better its missions and goals in light of current conditions.

CHART SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MEMBER DIOCESES IN EACH REGION

Region	Number of Member Dioceses	Number of <i>possible</i> votes at Natl. Mtg.	Number of votes at Board Meetings	Total Catholic Population in region (2007 Kennedy Directory)	Total dues assessed for region
1	11	22	2	5,373,946	\$9,070.00
2	8	16	2	7,364,827	\$7,790.00
3	13	26	2	7,097,525	\$11,291.00
4	19	38	2	5,681,806	\$10,608.00
5	19	38	2	2,129,085	\$11,842.00
6	13	26	2	4,328,709	\$9,447.00
7	11	22	2	4,620,305	\$8,120.00
8	15	30	2	2,952,287	\$9,986.00
9	15	30	2	2,120,515	\$9,200.00
10	27	54	2	9,025,308	\$20,657.00
11	15	30	2	11,860,379	\$13,635.00
12	11	22	2	1,503,775	\$6,535.00
AVG.	14.75	29.5	2	5,338,206	

Over the last few years the Board of Directors of the FDLC has put effort into identifying the strategic goals of the Federation. A restructuring of the regional boundaries of the Federation may help to achieve some of those strategic goals.

One of the significant sources of income for the FDLC is the Annual National Meeting. The potential for revenue from that meeting is dependent upon the participation of member dioceses, the travel costs incurred by attendees, and the efforts of the hosting region to obtain grants from within the region and to provide for the needs of the meeting with good financial stewardship. The board has questioned whether we might increase attendance at National Meetings by changing the way that we determine its location each year. We have better attendance when the location is accessible and affordable. The board raised the possibility of determining the location of the National Meeting according to geography rather than regions. It would stand to



Proposed Position Statements

reason that regions with larger membership might be able to mount a National Meeting with greater ease and monetary return.

Each region is expected to take its turn as host of the National Meeting with all of the dioceses in that region sharing in the work of preparing for that meeting. A hosting region is expected to solicit grant money from the Bishop of each diocese in the hosting region. Some regions have far more member dioceses than others. A region with a large number of member dioceses can potentially solicit grant money from more sources than a region with fewer member dioceses. Thus, a smaller region does not have an equitable potential for funding sources. Further, a region with few dioceses is comparatively limited in its resources for doing the work of planning a National Meeting. There are fewer people to share in the work. The required efforts and potential for funding is inequitable. Some regions may be too small, on their own, to share equally in the regional obligations owed to the FDLC. This includes the effort to plan a National Meeting.

It is possible that the imbalance of the regions may have an effect on voting results at National Meetings. In the ideal situation, a region with average of 15 dioceses casts 30 votes. A region with 27 dioceses casts 54 votes while a small region of 8 dioceses will cast only 16 votes. The larger regions, therefore, have a stronger effect on the outcome of the Federation's business meetings. Given that some of the FDLC's Position Statements are addressed to the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, the larger regions may carry more influence in the conference than smaller regions.

Some regions may be too large to work effectively together and distances may inhibit their chances to work collaboratively and equitably for every one of its dioceses. Some regions are so large that they may welcome a re-alignment so that all of their diocesan voices may be equally heard.

The establishment of diocesan liturgical commissions finds its genesis in paragraph #45 of The Constitution on the Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. In speaking of his plans to call that council, Pope John XXIII repeated certain phrases that identified the need for calling that council. He said that we must look at "the signs of the times." He also said that the Church needed to "let a little light in." To maintain the intrinsic identity of the Church he, also called for a "return to the sources," and called upon the Church to find a way to bring those roots of the Church into the light of the modern day. Today, we might re-state these ideas as, "let's think outside the box." Also, let us re-capture our identifying purposes, values and goals. The *raison d'être* of the FDLC is to provide a grass roots organization that can serve the needs of our member dioceses.

"Diocesan Liturgical Commissions mandated by the Constitution on the Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*) [SC 44], worship offices (or comparable diocesan structures) shall be a means by which the FDLC remains grounded in the 'grassroots' of its constitutive dioceses." (FDLC Bylaws Art. 2.2)

When one feels that a goal is well worth striving for, persistence becomes a means of achieving that which is deemed to be good and necessary. And so, the members of Region II, like the "Persistent Widow" in the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 18: 1-8) strive once again to convince the members of the FDLC to re-examine its regional



Proposed Position Statements

structure. We do this with a desire to serve the entire organization and to help the FDLC better to serve the Church in the United States.

PREAMBLE:

- Whereas shifting populations and resources are affecting dioceses throughout the country;
- Whereas important work is underway in anticipation of the acceptance of the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*, that will have significant impact on pastoral liturgical ministries;
- Whereas this work will soon become a responsibility at the grass roots level of the FDLC;
- Whereas the 12 regions of the FDLC are unbalanced and unequal in the number of dioceses and resources available in each region;
- Whereas the Board of Directors of the FDLC has already re-examined the way that the Federation identifies its strategic goals and the means by which it works to achieve those goals;
- Whereas the FDLC was founded for the purpose of being a grassroots organization that represents all of the dioceses in the United States by hearing their voices, bringing them together as a unified voice, and providing information and services to each diocese;
- Whereas it may now be necessary to examine our regional structure and its ability to serve the mission of the FDLC;

STATEMENT:

It is the position of the delegates to the 2009 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that

1. the Board of Directors of the FDLC establish an ad hoc committee of the FDLC
2. to examine and make recommendations concerning the current regional structure of the FDLC
3. in order to evaluate the FDLC's effectiveness
4. and potential for maximum use of available regional and national resources
5. by which we may better serve the liturgical apostolate of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions at the diocesan, regional and national levels.

We request that a time-line and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by 31 January 2010.

SUBMITTED BY: Region II



Proposed Position Statements

Position Statement 2009/2

TOPIC: Mystagogical Catechesis

RATIONALE:

Context

We are created in the image and likeness of God and called into relationship with Him through salvation offered to us in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ

The Sacrament of Salvation and Beacon of Truth is His Church

God is best glorified in the human person fully alive

In this 21st Century the dignity of the human person is being challenged

Theology

In the early Church, mystagogical catechesis was the primary avenue of assisting the faithful into a fuller awareness of self-understanding

Through two millennia of reflection the Catholic Church offers the best expression / experience of Human dignity

With the growth of the Church outside of the traditional boundaries of the Roman Empire and the advent of infant baptism the methods of evangelization changed. This phenomena along with infant baptism led to the dissipation of mystagogical catechesis

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi

In Luke 24 we read the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. When they encounter Jesus, they experience the story and the ritual, the heart of mystagogy.

Bibliography

GDC #91: "Finally, the concept of the baptismal Catechumenate as *a process of formation and as a true school of the faith* offers post-baptismal catechesis dynamic and particular characteristics: comprehensiveness and integrity of formation; its gradual character expressed in definite stages; its connection with meaningful rites, symbols, biblical and liturgical signs; its constant references to the Christian community."



Proposed Position Statements

RCIA #244: The period of post baptismal catechesis or mystagogy “is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and doing the works of charity.”

RCIA #246: “The period of post baptismal catechesis is of great significance for both the neophytes and the rest of the faithful.... The faithful, in turn, should derive from it a renewal of inspiration and of outlook.”

Hughes, Kathleen *A Mystagogy of Sacrament: Saying Amen LTP, Chicago, 1999:* Mystagogy is life long; conversion does not end with the sacraments of initiation...The sacramental life of the community (the Word of God and experience of the sacraments) as well as personal experience of an encounter with God are appropriate matter of Mystagogy.

A critical element for mystagogy is well celebrated rites: good liturgy nourishes faith; poor liturgy destroys it (*Music in Catholic Worship #6*).

PREAMBLE:

Whereas the formation of Christian disciples is a life-long journey;

Whereas conversion does not end with the celebration of the sacraments of initiation;

Whereas the *General Directory for Catechesis* sets forth the concept of the baptismal catechumenate as *a process of formation and as a true school of the faith* for post-baptismal catechesis and reflection;

Whereas the *Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults* declares the significance of post-baptismal mystagogy for the entire community of the faithful;

Whereas throughout the history of the Church Christians are continually called to reflect on and consider the cost to live according to the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection;

STATEMENT:

It is the position of the delegates to the 2009 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that

1. the membership of the FDLC
2. affirms mystagogy as the primary principle of catechesis,
3. and essential for all sacramental formation and Christian living.
4. We recommit ourselves to implement this principle in all our liturgical/catechetical work.

We request that a time-line and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by *31 January 2010*.

SUBMITTED BY: Region X



Proposed Position Statements

Position Statement 2009/3

TOPIC: National Process

RATIONALE:

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions provides its member (arch)dioceses with a forum and a practical means to address their concerns and needs in the liturgical apostolate. The grass-roots nature of the Federation is best expressed when regional issues are allowed a hearing at the national level for the purpose of solidarity and the joint work of diocesan liturgy offices and commissions. The National Meeting is the privileged place through which regional concerns can be brought to the attention of the whole membership for discussion, support and action.

This process, as carried out in our Business Sessions, has traditionally been built around the vehicle of "Position Statements" (hereafter, PS) that require a carefully researched rationale and theological foundation, prepared and presented to the membership according to a prescribed format and timeline.

Since the inception of the PS model, however, various quantum advances have taken place in the world of communication, not the least of which is the advent of the internet. Our long-established timeline for preparing and presenting PSs, by contrast, now seems to hamper the Federation's ability to respond to emerging issues and needs in a fashion that is considered "timely" by today's standards.

Since the establishment of the Federation, furthermore, the nature of the liturgical apostolate has also developed to embrace concerns that are quite different from those of the years immediately following the Second Vatican Council. There is now less of a concern for developing new texts and forms and a greater concern for the refinement and more careful use of the liturgical rites and texts that we now have. This latter concern has reshaped the work of the liturgical apostolate and, inevitably, the work of the Federation.

PSs have historically been most effective when they have led to specific actions, resulting in new liturgical books, practical emendations to existing texts, collaboration with various other entities involved with the liturgy, or in resource materials. The changing climate in the liturgical apostolate over recent years, however, seems to have resulted in fewer and fewer actionable Position Statements, even though there are still many concerns and needs to be articulated and addressed.

PREAMBLE:

Whereas FDLC National Meetings in recent years have seen a steady decline in the number of Position Statements presented for consideration;



Proposed Position Statements

- Whereas there is concern about the effectiveness of Position Statements in achieving actionable conclusions;
- Whereas universal use of current technology has dramatically increased the speed by which we can communicate;
- Whereas there is widespread and reasonable expectation that leadership in all areas of life will respond to emerging situations and questions as they arise and without undue delay;
- Whereas the current deadlines for presenting Position Statements can result in exclusion of emerging issues or the prevention of response and action in a manner that is considered "timely" by current standards;
- Whereas Executive Committee Resolutions (ECRs) have recently taken on a greater importance, allowing an effective and timely means for addressing significant or emerging issues

STATEMENT:

It is the position of the delegates to the 2009 National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions that

1. the Board of Directors assign the National Process Committee
2. the task of evaluate the procedure by which
3. the content for the Business Sessions
4. is solicited from the membership and
5. developed for the National Meeting.
6. The NPC will then make recommendations to the Board of Directors
7. for amending that procedure
8. in such a way as will preserve our best practices:
9. a) the scholarly research and careful preparation required by the current Position Statement process and
10. b) the ability of the ECR process to formulate statements in real time.

We request that a time-line and procedure for implementation of this resolution be set by the FDLC Board of Directors by *31 January 2010*.

SUBMITTED BY: National Process Committee