



2022 NATIONAL MEETING

ARS CELEBRANDI: SOMETHING MORE IS REQUIRED

Liturgists from across the United States gathered in New Orleans, October 4-6 for the fifty-third national meeting of diocesan liturgical commissions. Another fifty members joined virtually. It was especially wonderful to welcome thirty members who were attending their very first national meeting – a sign of present and future growth.

We had last gathered in New Orleans in 1983 – nearly forty years ago. Then, our members examined the Liturgical Year. A lot has happened since then – three popes, seven presidents, and not a few revised liturgical texts.

We gathered just days after Hurricane Ian tore across Florida and the Carolinas. We gathered in an area which had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 and Ida in August 2021. We had witnessed, in horror, the force of these storms and their power to transform lives in an instant.

But we can also bear witness to the force of the Church's Liturgy. Each time we gather we are impacted by the breath of the Holy Spirit, who imbues every word we utter, every gesture we make, and every symbol we use. We have seen the power of flood waters, but we have also experienced the power of our baptismal water.

In the midst of destruction, we often find heroism. So, too, the work of the members of the FDLC is heroic. Every time the People of God gather for Liturgy, they place their broken lives and dreams on the table of the Lord. There, they should find nourishment, comfort, and community. There, they encounter “the primary and indispensable source from which [they may] derive the true Christian spirit” (SC 14). At that Table, they should be able to discover a source of communion and a sign of unity and charity. There, they find new life, even at the point of death.

All of us are emerging from the “storm” of the pandemic. Still, we find fewer people in the pews, fewer ministers in the sanctuary, fewer families engaged in parish life. Pope Francis urges us on...to fulfill the vision of the Second Vatican Council and to facilitate the “full, conscious, and active participation” of our assemblies. And we all know that to accomplish that “something more is required” than the mere observance of laws (SC 11, 14).

This year's meeting focused on “*Ars Celebrandi*: Something More is Required.” We explored the art of celebration and its impact on the life of the Church. We rediscovered the “astonishment” that Pope Francis wants us all to recover. We heard four excellent plenary speakers on the nature of *ars celebrandi*.

Father Patrick Beidelman explored the historical roots of the notion of *ars celebrandi* and wove in fascinating tales of the importance of ritual and the spiritual dimensions of our encounter with Christ in the Liturgy. Father Bruce Cinquegrani explored the vital “empathetic attending” that is so necessary for the assembly to enter into the liturgical act and for the presider to engage with the assembly. Sr. Judith Kubicki spoke of the essential role of music in the liturgy and the crucial need for the liturgical formation of the pastoral musician. Dr. Marchita Mauck drew upon Pope Francis's recent apostolic letter, *Desiderio Desideravi*, as she explored the role of art and architecture in the celebration of the liturgical rites. [Look for full texts of their talks in future issues of the *FDLC Newsletter*.]

Father Thomas Ranzino served as facilitator for the meeting, weaving the presentations together, leading our discussions, aiding our reflection with a participant's journal, and offered a poetic summary.



On Tuesday morning, a panel offered updates and insights on the formation on the revised OCIA. Father Andrew Menke gave a history of the process of translation of this text and offered updates its status – still awaiting approval at the Vatican. Todd Williamson, OCIA Task Force Chair, gave statistics on the current OCIA webinars (over 3600 people participating in English and Spanish) and an overview of future FDLC plans. Dr. James Starke gave a snapshot on the formation of seminarians nationwide and how they are schooled in the rites of initiation – in the classroom and in the parish. Sr. Lois Paha gave an overview of diocesan programming, successes, and challenges when forming local clergy and leaders.

From the Opening Rite to the Closing Mass, our celebrations of the Church’s liturgies further served to manifest our commitment to the art of celebration. Each day’s Masses were held at local churches and each bore the imprint of the local community. On Tuesday, Archbishop Gregory Aymond welcomed us to the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis King of France where he encouraged us to reflect on the Collect for the Mass for Ministers of the Church –“...that they may be effective in action, gentle in ministry, and constant in prayer.” At the Church of the Immaculate Conception, a Jesuit church downtown, we celebrated Mass on the memorial of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos who holds a special place in the heart of parishioners in New Orleans. The Choir from Notre Dame Seminary provided music. On Thursday, we gathered at the historic St. Peter Claver parish in the heart of the city where we were warmly welcomed by a sixty-voice Gospel choir and by Father Ajani Gibson, parochial vicar, who presided over a joyful celebration.

The liturgies at the hotel, too, reflected well on the meeting’s theme. Many thanks to scores of members who served as liturgical ministers for the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, at the Opening Rite, and at a Liturgy of Remembrance during which we honored deceased members of the FDLC.

Archbishop Blair, Chair of the BCDW, addressed us via video. The Secretariat staff updated us on the status of the liturgical texts. In the business sessions, the members passed resolutions to offer formation on the Mass and on the protocols for eucharistic adoration and exposition. They also came to the microphone to share what they were doing in their dioceses regarding the Eucharistic Revival. (We will continue to populate a page of our FDLC website with these resources.)

Many, many, thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors, to Michael Poradek, who handled all the technology, and to the incredible Committee from Region V who had worked tirelessly and showed true Southern Hospitality – just ask the folks who experienced home-made treats and who won state-themed gift baskets filled with goodies!

The week was yet another manifestation of the value of this Federation, the networking it engenders and supports, and its dedication to the liturgical apostolate. ■ RT

Below: Committee members: Fr. Glenn LeCompte, Barry Mudd, and Karen Rood. [R] Michael Poradek on technology.



CARMEN FERNANDEZ AGUINACO RECEIVES FDLC's McMANUS AWARD

In 1994, the Federation established a national award which would recognize “an individual who or organization which has made significant contributions to furthering the liturgical renewal in the United States.” In January 1995, the Board of Directors voted to name the award after Monsignor Frederick R. McManus and to designate him as its first recipient.

Msgr. McManus (1923-2005) served as a peritus at the Second Vatican Council and drafted significant portions of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. He served several terms as the President of the Liturgical Conference, and served on the Advisory Council of ICEL. As the Executive Director of the BCL Secretariat, he was instrumental in establishing the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions. He served as the Dean of the School of Canon Law at the Catholic University of America and was a leader in promoting dialogue with Orthodox Christians.



On October 6, 2022 the Federation awarded the Msgr. Frederick R. MacManus Award to **Carmen Fernandez Aguinaco**.

After many years in publishing and adult formation in the Chicago area, she came to the USCCB Secretariat for Divine Worship in 2016 to serve as its Multi-cultural Specialist. In her time at the USCCB, she shared her expertise with various departments, including preparations for the V Encuentro. She made invaluable contributions to the translation and preparation of liturgical texts including the *Misal Romano, tercera edición*, *Ritual del Matrimonio*, *Ritual para la Confirmación, Bendición*, and the *Ritual de la Iniciación Cristiana de*

Adultos. She wrote countless Spanish language articles for the USCCB website. Even in retirement, she continues to work on the USCCB's Spanish Bible project which will impact the *Leccionario* for the dioceses of the USA..

Always in demand as a translator, she generously contributed to the Spanish-language pages of the FDLC publication, *Our Sacrifice of Praise/Nuestro Sacrificio de Alabanza* (2019) and often translated pages of our annual Lenten and Advent liturgical preparation aids. She was a valued leader, partner, and presenter in the Federations' nationwide formation on the *Misal Romano, tercera edición*.

What follows is Carmen's acceptance speech. ■

Photo above (L-R) – Rita Thiron, Carmen Fernandez Aginaco, and Board Chair Laura Bertone.

Good evening. Board of Directors, thank you for a totally undeserved award. I receive it in the name of the Hispanic community who have taught me so much about faith, prayer and liturgy over more than 40 years.

We, Hispanics, relate better to stories than to abstract concepts. So, I will start with a short story that seems to me to reflect well what I have been trying to do through my work in liturgy, as well as what I sense Liturgy is about.

Micaela was a simple woman studying in an Adult Education Center in a suburb of Chicago. She had never completed her elementary education. She was bright, dedicated, and enthusiastic. Working hard, she was able to complete her elementary certificate, and went on to obtain her GED, all in a very short time. One day she commented: “You know, I love my husband, and I know he loves me. But we don't have the language to express it. And that is one of the reasons I come to these classes”.

It seems to me that something similar is what happens with people who love God. Most Hispanics love God and want to express their love. They want to taste the love of God expressed in the liturgy, but, without the ritual books, without the actual liturgy well celebrated, they don't have the language. They seek ways; sometimes they try to express their love by imitating popular culture... or other ritualistic practices, but, somehow, that is never completely satisfying.

The language of entertainment and table talk does not quite express the love for the Most High, for “His Majesty,” as St. Teresa of Avila used to say. Moreover, all too often, the Hispanic community in the United States has been deprived of the possibility of celebrating both in the language of their heart and in the timeless language of the Church in its most reverent and dignified expressions. The resources were not equally accessible, and the formation simply had not been there.

The process of consultation for the V Encuentro really emphasized the need of the Hispanic community to become “fluent” in this language of the liturgy as a question of survival for both their Catholic faith and their Hispanic identity. Liturgy is essential for the identity of a people for whom the Gospel has been intrinsically linked to culture. At the present moment, it becomes a question of survival because, if the next generations do not find that same language, they will lose who they are as Hispanics... and as Catholics. They will lose their roots and become spiritually homeless, because they won’t be able to recognize the language of the heart they once learned from their mothers and grandmothers, godparents, aunts, uncles... Such language goes beyond mere Spanish grammar and vocabulary. It includes a whole world of symbols, sounds, senses.

I am not a liturgist by trade. I went to the Secretariat of Divine Worship almost by accident, almost as a little “adventure” in response to a call to serve the Church after what I thought was my first retirement. It is probably unprecedented for FDLC to give an award for “advancing the cause of liturgy after Vatican II” to a person who is not a liturgist... or even a theologian! So, I am as surprised and shocked as some of you may be. I am also deeply humbled. But I myself love God and, in the language of the liturgy, I found a way to express it that was not my own, and that I often did not even comprehend. That the language was a mystery does not really matter: or rather, it matters a great deal because that mystery is what transports us to the heart of God.

In my work, I was simply trying to provide the beloved Hispanic Catholic community with a “language” that is Hispanic, but that goes beyond Spanish words, so that they could express their love for God. What I found was actually the language taught by God’s own love in the beauty, light, awe, and reverence that transcends words, while including them. This is a language that includes music, light, incense, processions, gestures, united to the words of ancient and ever new collects, Eucharistic prayers, responses that seem to be, not so much fixed in time, but outside of time and space while happening in time and space. Having been evangelized by a Mediterranean culture that often echoed their own indigenous roots, Hispanic Catholics depend greatly on the senses and use symbols for their regular expression. The incarnational and inculturated approach of the Spanish catechists (the ones who accompanied the conquerors and explorers into the New World), sought to use symbols and images that people could understand and could, in many cases, be easily integrated into their own mindset and imagination. The early missionaries did not know the native languages and so, they used their own creativity in creating illustrated catechisms, and dramas that still survive in the practices of popular religiosity, such as *Posadas*, *Via Crucis*, *Pastorelas*, *cascarones*, *villancicos*, *aguinaldos*, *griterías*, and so on and so forth... *Flor y Canto* is not just the name of the hymnal book from OCP, but the whole sense of how the people express their love for God and for the mystery. Flowers and birds are prominent in Hispanic religious iconography: symbols of color and life, and of the music that is raised in praise.

I had been writing my whole life, but now I was in front of a completely different challenge: not so much to create a language but to support the understanding of the language of the liturgy. My work was, of course, immersed in words, grammatical rules and best expressions. But, in the course of working on the *Misal*, *the Bendicional*, *the RICA* and other ritual books, I went deeper and deeper into my love not just for the Spanish language, but for all that surrounds the rites, symbols and sounds that, together, constitute the language of dialogue between God and people.

So, at the end of over six years and well into my second “quasi-retirement,” have I become a liturgist deserving of such a wonderful award? Of course not! I was simply a scribe following the directions of the Secretariat for Divine Worship and of the Subcommittee for Divine Worship in Spanish, to whom I am forever indebted. I have, in a way, become a sort of modern medieval monk chasing elusive commas or chasing them away, as the case may be. An awesome task in any case. And a great privilege and grace.

Fr. Menke jokingly once said I should be paying USCCB for reading the Bible and getting an education. And, seriously, I really should. Except that I would never have enough money or time to do that. I am forever grateful to

Fr. Michael Flynn, who first hired me. My deepest gratitude goes to Fr. Menke, who had to endure my ignorance and gently introduced me into the mysteries of a new language and whose friendship honors me; to Fr. Randy Stice for his continued friendship and support, and to the staff of the Secretariat for Divine Worship. To all the great colleagues and friends who extended their hospitality to me throughout these years, my deepest gratitude and admiration.



I am also grateful to Bishop Aymond, who first invited me to the Subcommittee, Bishop Cisneros who brought me into this work, Bishop García and the Subcommittee for Liturgy in Spanish, the Instituto de Liturgia Hispana and the FDLC for the work done in formation in liturgy for Hispanics. And to Rita Thiron, for her friendship and great times while conducting the workshops on the Misal and for her personal support to all these endeavors.

A grateful remembrance goes to my two predecessors, Sr. Doris Turek, who passed away a few years ago, and Sylvia Sánchez, good friends who showed me enthusiasm for and commitment to the liturgy.

And, finally, to my sisters, Pilar and Virginia, who are here with me today, as they have always been. They have always generously supported any and all of my adventures. They really have the language of the heart.

And to all of you who have helped me to learn a great deal of that language and have allowed me the great privilege of being able to contribute some little commas and periods to it. Thank you! ■

Above: Father Andrew Menke, Executive Director of the Secretariat for Divine Worship, congratulates Carmen after the banquet.

THE FDLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The 2022-2023 FDLC Board of Directors gathers with Archbishop Gregory Aymond after the Mass at Saint Louis Cathedral on October 4. (Not pictured: Msgr. Gary Smetanka).

LAURA BERTONE ELECTED NEW CHAIR OF THE BOARD



The Board of Directors met Monday October 3 in New Orleans. Among the items on their agenda was the election of new officers. **Ms. Laura Bertone** was elected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors. She becomes the seventeenth person in the history of the Federation to do so and only the third woman to hold that position. Sr. Janet Baxendale, SC of New York served as Chair from 1982-1983 and Sr. Anthony Poerio, IBVM of Phoenix served from 1991-1993.

Ms. Bertone has been a member of the Board since 2017, representing Region Eleven. She formerly served as the treasurer. Laura is the Director of the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. She holds degrees in business from Santa Clara University and a masters in Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently a student of Canon Law at St. Paul University in Canada.

Mr. Todd Williamson (Region VII, Archdiocese of Chicago) remains as Vice Chair. He has served on the Board since 2019, has been a member of the Formation Committee, and continues to offer outstanding leadership of the OCIA Task Force.

Ms. Letitia “Tish” Thornton (Region XII, Diocese of Boise) was elected as Board Treasurer. Tish has served on the Board since 2018 and has most recently served as facilitator of the Pastoral Liturgy Committee, guiding us through several major projects.

FREE OCIA WEBINARS CONTINUE

ENGLISH Wednesday	SPANISH Thursday	TOPIC	SPEAKERS IN ENGLISH	SPEAKERS IN SPANISH
Nov 2	Nov 3	Role of the Bishop in OCIA	Williamson & Thiron	Fr. Michael Lewis
Nov 9	Nov 10	Initiating Community: Roles and Proper Ministers	Dr. Donna Eschenauer	Dr. Ximena DeBroeck
Nov 16	Nov 17	Period of Evangelization/ Pre-Catechumenate	Victoria Tufano	Nelly Lorenzo
Dec 7	Dec 8	About the Rite of Entrance	Dr. Patricia Hughes	Dr. Dolores Martinez and Fr. Carlos Velasquez
Dec 14	Dec 15	Catechumenate Period	Todd Williamson	Dr. Ximena DeBroeck
Jan 4	Jan 5	The Rites of Sending/ Election	Laura Bertone	Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Dr. Dolores Martinez
Jan 11	Jan 12	Period of Purification & Enlightenment: Scrutinies	Fr. Jan Michael Joncas	Fr. Pedro Lopez
Jan 18	Jan 19	Handing on Rites/Rites of Immediate Preparation	Fr. Paul Turner	Fr. Paul Turner
Jan 25	Jan 26	Initiation Rites	Fr. Robert Kennedy	Fr. Richard Vega
Feb 1	Feb 2	Initiation in Exceptional Circum.	Dr. Eileen Jaramillo, JCL Dr. Carmel Ann Sperti	Nelly Lorenzo
Feb 8	Feb 9	Rites for the Baptized	Fr. Ron Oakham, O Carm.	Fr. Tim Piasecki
Feb 15	Feb 16	Period of Mystagogy	Fr. J. Marcus McFadin	Rose Hernandez

SCENES FROM THE NATIONAL MEETING



Fr. Patrick Beidelman



Sr. Judith Kubicki



Fr. Bruce Cinquegrani



Dr. Marchita Mauck and Fr. Tom Ranzino



Concelebrants enter the Cathedral



Joan Conroy and Sr. Jeanne Wiest, OP



Richard Clark leads music at Morning Prayer



Father Ajani Gibson at St. Peter Claver Church



The Voices of St. Peter Claver



Deacon Jose Reyes proclaims the Gospel Oct 6



Betty-Ann Hickey leads concelebrants



Fr. Jim Bessert preaches October 5



Liturgy of Remembrance



Elizabeth Simcoe assists Tish Thornton