

JOIN US FOR THE 54TH MEETING OF
DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

NATIONAL MEETING 2023

STUDY DAY REGISTRATION BROCHURE

October 11, 2023

Cincinnati, OH • Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza

SIGN & PLEDGE OF COMMUNION: MASSES WITH CHILDREN

HOSTED BY

Region VI

SPONSORED BY

**Federation of Diocesan
Liturgical Commission &
Bishop's Committee on Divine Worship**





Dear Colleagues,

In his Apostolic Letter of June 29, 2022, Pope Francis wrote: “How can we grow in our capacity to live in full the liturgical action? How do we continue to let ourselves be amazed at what happens in the celebration under our very eyes? We are in need of a serious and dynamic liturgical formation” (*Desiderio Desideravi*, 31).

Since its founding in 1969, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has always been dedicated to such liturgical formation. Our members serve in diocesan offices, on diocesan commissions, in parishes, and in academia. We ensure the authentic celebration of the rites; we promote best pastoral practices; we cite historic precedents; and we form clergy and other liturgical ministers.

Like you, who serve in catechetical and Catholic school ministry, we see the value of forming all the baptized – young and old – in the practice of their faith.

At this year’s national meeting, we honor the fiftieth anniversary of the *Directory for Masses with Children*. This universal document was promulgated on November 1, 1973, by the Congregation for Divine Worship “by special mandate of the Supreme Pontiff, Paul VI.” It was not coincidental that the Church chose to publish this document at the same time that people all over the world were adapting to the reformed Liturgy and the revised liturgical texts. It was intended as a supplement to the new *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (1969-1970). It was followed by the promulgation of three Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children (1975) and, eventually, a *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (1992).

Reviewing the *Directory* now seems timely. In a post-pandemic era when we are encouraging families with young children to return to Sunday worship, we need to educate parents and children alike. In a culture where families are struggling against the opinions of secular society, we need to nurture the Catholic identity of our youngest Church members. And in a time when entertainment is often more valued than true worship, we need to foster the full, conscious, and active participation of our youth in the liturgy, by means of the liturgy.

Therefore, I invite you to join us at the Study Day within this year’s national meeting – **Wednesday, October 11, 2023. The meeting’s theme is aptly titled, “Sign and Pledge of Communion: Masses with Children.”** Like the document from which it is drawn, the theme recognizes the baptismal dignity of *all* the Church’s members! The committee has developed an impressive program of plenary sessions and workshops which address various facets of this topic.

We are very grateful for the kind invitation of Archbishop Dennis Schnurr and for the hard work of the good folks of Region VI. They have been tending to countless details and assure us of a warm Midwest welcome!

Please join us for this fifty-fourth annual gathering. As always, we will learn from each other, network among colleagues, visit exhibits, share ideas, and study the Liturgy. Essential to our gathering will be prayer in which we invoke the Spirit’s guidance, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, and offer God due praise!

Blessings,

Rita A. Thiron
Executive Director, FDLC

OPTIONAL – TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 10

- 5:15** **Opening Eucharistic Liturgy**
at Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains
Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr, Principal Celebrant
- 7:00** **“Taste of the Region” reception**
follows Mass in the Cathedral Hall (extra ticket required)



STUDY DAY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:30** **Study Day Registration opens**
8:30 **Morning Prayer**

9:00 **PLENARY ONE: Unless You Become Like a Little Child:**
The Challenge and Promise of Liturgical Childhood for the Church

Children in many liturgical settings are treated more often as a problem to be solved, than a gift to be received. In this talk, we will explore why children and adolescents alike function as sacramental icons inviting us to reflect on the liturgical dispositions each of us need to celebrate the liturgy aright. This talk will take up additional themes related to the domestic church, disaffiliation, and young adults.



Dr. Timothy P. O'Malley is the Director of Education at the McGrath Institute for Church Life and Academic Director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy. He holds a concurrent appointment in the Department of Theology. He received his undergraduate degree at the University of Notre Dame majoring in theology and philosophy and was awarded an M.T.S. in liturgical studies also from same institution. He completed a doctorate at Boston College in theology and education. At Notre Dame, he teaches and researches in areas related to liturgical-sacramental theology, catechesis, and marriage and family life. He is the primary researcher on a grant related to children and worship, made possible through the Lilly Endowment.

- 10:15** **Table Discussion**
10:30 **Break and Visit with Exhibits**

11:00 **PLENARY TWO: Taking Another Look at the Directory for Masses with Children**

In 1973, the Church promulgated a universal document on the principles of celebrating Masses with Children. In the midst of post-Vatican II changes, why was this document timely? What important lessons did it deliver? Now, in a post-pandemic era, when we are searching for ways to better involve young parents and their children, what can we learn and apply? This session will offer a closer look at the document itself and why it is still timely today.



Dr. Donna Eschenauer is the Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York. In her position she assists the Academic Dean in directing all academic programs and teaches courses that are reflective of theology and practice, particularly in the area of Christian Initiation, liturgy, catechesis, and ministry. She holds an M.A. in Theology with advanced studies in Liturgy from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY. Her doctoral work at Fordham University focused on Education and Liturgy. She has served as a liturgy and catechetical consultant for William H. Sadlier Publishing Company. Her pastoral experience is reflective of her over twenty-two years of work in the Diocese of Rockville Centre at the Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes where she served as a religious educator, liturgist, and catechumenate director.

- 12:15** **LUNCH**

(included in registration)

WORKSHOP SESSIONS A

2:00 TO 3:15

A-1 OCIA AS ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* recognized that the process of conversion was equally important for children of catechetical age. “Their initiation requires not only personal conversion of a maturity suitable to their age, but also the help of education necessary at that age. From that point, it must be adapted also to the spiritual journey of the children, namely their increase in faith and the catechetical instruction they receive. As with adults, therefore their initiation is extended over some years, if necessary, over several years before they approach the sacraments. Their initiation is marked by various steps and periods and organized by rites...” (OCIA 253). How do we bring this vision to bear on our best pastoral practices?

PRESENTER: Sr. Sandra DeMasi, SSJ

A-2 ENGAGING CHILDREN IN THE LITURGICAL PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH

“With zeal and patience pastors must promote the liturgical instruction of the faithful and also their active participation in the liturgy both internally and externally, taking into account their age and condition, their way of life, and their stage of religious development. By doing so pastors will be fulfilling one of their chief duties as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God...” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 19). The Council fathers did not limit liturgical formation to adults. They recognized the need for liturgical formation at every age (Pre-K to 8th grade will be addressed in this workshop). This session will offer descriptions of how this goal has been pursued at St. Columban Parish in Loveland, OH. The panel will describe what has been done at their parish, offer best practices for school and religious education students, and demonstrate ways to engage children in mystagogical reflection. The children are not only being prepared to take part in the Sunday assembly, but also to celebrate various liturgies.

PRESENTERS: Father Larry Tensi (Pastor); Mary Bellman (Music Director); Terri Kerley (Coordinator of Religious Education); and Scott Mussari (Director of Faith Formation).

A-3 PREPARING FIRST COMMUNION LITURGIES

The celebration of First Communion is a moment of joy, not only for the child and his or her family, but also for the entire parish. From the moment the child is baptized, the community of believers is responsible for the Christian Initiation of that child. Therefore, the Church has a distinct privilege of walking with children and their families toward First Communion. This workshop will be of interest to sacramental program coordinators, catechetical leaders, priests, and music directors. In addition to generous time for questions and answers, it will explore three pastoral areas: First Communion in the context of the sacramental life of the parish; Liturgy *with* children; and preparing the liturgy for First Communion.

PRESENTER: Dr. Donna Eschenauer

WORKSHOP SESSIONS B

3:45 TO 5:00

B-1 Preaching the Kingdom: Let the Children Come to Me

“The homily explaining the word of God should be given great prominence in all Masses with children. Sometimes the homily intended for children should become a dialogue with them, unless it is preferred that they should listen in silence” (*Directory for Masses with Children*, 48). “All the elements that will help to explain the readings should be given great consideration so that the children may make the biblical readings their own and may come more and more to appreciate the value of God's word...” (ibid 47). What principles should the preacher employ when preparing a homily for Mass at which children are present? What techniques might he use when preaching to and for an assembly of children?

PRESENTER: Father Del Staigers

B-2 Make a Joyful Noise: Music for Masses with Children

“Singing must be given great importance in all celebrations, but it is to be especially encouraged in every way for Masses celebrated with children, in view of their special affinity for music. The culture of various peoples and the capabilities of the children present should be taken into account. If possible, the acclamations should be sung by the children rather than recited, especially the acclamations that form part of the Eucharistic prayer” (*Directory for Masses with Children*, 30). The use of musical instruments can add a great deal in Masses with children, especially if they are played by the children themselves” (ibid, 32). How should we choose repertoire that engages children in the Mass and forms them for participation in the Sunday assembly?

PRESENTER: Ms. Meg Matuska

B-3 Reconciliation and First Communion Preparation – for Adults!

At the baptism of their children, parents promise to bring their child up in the practice of the faith. What equips them to do so? How can we, as liturgists and catechists, better prepare them for their role in forming their children as age-appropriate participants in the sacramental life of the church?

PRESENTER: Dr. Timothy Brunk

Mass at Hotel

Free Night in Cincinnati



ABOUT OUR WORKSHOP PRESENTERS



Dr. Timothy Brunk is associate professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology at Villanova University, where he has been teaching since 2006. He holds a doctorate from Marquette University, a master of arts in pastoral studies from Seattle University, a master of arts in theology from Boston College, and a bachelor's degree in religious studies from Amherst College. He is the author of fifteen journal articles and two books, including *The Sacraments and Consumer Culture* (Liturgical Press, 2020), recognized by the Catholic Media Association at its annual meeting as the first-place winner in the sacraments category. He is currently engaged in research on children, liturgy, and care of creation.



Sandra DeMasi, SSJ, is a Sister of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia. She has a bachelor's degree in Education from Chestnut Hill College, a master's degree in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame and a D.Min. in Liturgy and Catechesis from the Catholic University of America. She has been an adjunct professor of liturgy at Felician College, Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall, St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie, NY, and Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY. She is a frequent workshop presenter across the country on the subject of the Christian initiation of children of catechetical age.



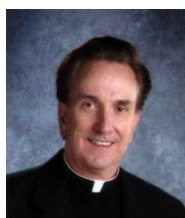
Dr. Donna Eschenauer is the Associate Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York. In her position she assists the Academic Dean in directing all academic programs and teaches courses that are reflective of theology and practice, particularly in the area of Christian Initiation, liturgy, catechesis, and ministry. Dr. Eschenauer has also been a liturgy and catechetical consultant for William H. Sadlier Publishing Company and as a part of the Catechumenate Team for Liturgy Training Publications in Chicago.



Meg Matuska is the Director of Music Ministries at Communion of Saints Parish in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. She is a trustee for the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Vice Chair of the NPM Board of Directors. She recently coordinated another successful children's choir festival at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral. She holds a masters degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music.



Rev. Del Staigers is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He was ordained in 1987, and served for three years as Associate Pastor at St. Helen Church in Dayton before leaving for further studies in St. Louis, MO. He returned to Cincinnati and began teaching at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mt. St. Mary's Seminary for nine years, while being the Sunday Associate at St. Andrew, Milford. He served again in Dayton at an urban parish region which grew to three parishes. He currently serves a Family of Parishes which comprises St. Veronica Church, St. Andrew, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.



Rev. Larry Tensi is the former pastor of St. Columban parish in Loveland, OH. Ordained in 1979, he is the former Director of the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He holds a masters degree in Theology with a concentration in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree in Biblical Studies from Mt. St. Mary Seminary of the West, and a bachelor of arts in philosophy from the Athenaeum of Ohio.

Mary Bellman is the current Music Director at St. Columban Parish in Loveland, Ohio. She holds a bachelor of arts in music from the University of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, Ohio and a master's degree in Theology from the Athenaeum of Ohio.

Mrs. Terri Kerley is the Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Columban Parish in Loveland, Ohio. She has a bachelor's degree in Theology and Elementary Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a master's degree in Education from University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Scott Mussari is the current director of faith formation at St. Columban parish in Loveland, Ohio. He holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in Theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel
35 West Fifth Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Reserve your rooms now at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. The hotel is located on Cincinnati's famed Fountain Square and a few blocks from the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains.

You may already reserve your room directly with the hotel by calling 1-800-HILTONS and refer to the group code – "FDLC." Or simply click on this special Passkey link: <https://group.hilton.com/m8ejfj>

Our FDLC meeting room rate is only \$179 per night (reg. \$210 to \$220). This rate will also be honored three days prior to and three days after the meeting (subject to hotel availability).



THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

STUDY DAY

Memorial of Saint John Paul XXIII, Pope

8:00	Study Day Registration opens
8:30	Morning Prayer
9:00	Welcome
9:05	Plenary I (O'Malley)
10:15	Table Discussion
10:30	Coffee break; Exhibits Open
11:00	Plenary II (Eschenauer)
Noon	Table Discussions
12:15	Luncheon Served
2:00	Workshops – Session A
3:15	Break with Exhibits
3:45	Workshops – Session B
5:00	Break
5:30	Mass at Hotel
6:30	Free Night in Cincinnati

A fully Christian life is inconceivable without participation in the liturgical services in which the faithful, gathered into a single assembly, celebrate the paschal mystery. Therefore, the religious initiation of children must be in harmony with this purpose. The Church baptizes children and therefore, relying in the gifts conferred in this sacrament, it must be concerned that once baptized they grow in communion with Christ and each other. **The sign and pledge of that communion is participation in the Eucharistic table, for which children are being prepared or led to a deeper appreciation of its meaning.** This liturgical and eucharistic formation may not be separated from their general education, both human and Christian; indeed, it would be harmful if their liturgical formation lacked such a basis.

~ Directory for Masses with Children, 8



NATIONAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS

October 10-12, 2023

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Hotel, Cincinnati, OH

MEETING REGISTRATION OPTIONS: MEMBERS AND VISITORS

REGISTER TODAY ONLINE AT: www.fdlc.org/2023/register

REGISTRATION FEES	Registered before 9/1/23	Registered after 9/1/23	
Member: Full Conference	\$395	\$445	Registration Online at: www.fdlc.org/2023
Non-Member: Full Conference	\$445	\$495	
Member: Virtual Attendance	\$75	\$85	Mark your choice of payment options:
Study Day Only (Non-Member)	\$95	\$145	
Study Day Only Virtual Registration	\$75	\$85	Check (Preferred) or Credit Card
Extra Reception Ticket (Tuesday)	\$50	\$50	
Extra Lunch Ticket (Wednesday)	\$65	\$65	

Virtual Registrants will receive login information in September via email.

For further information, contact the FDLC National Office at 202-635-6990 or nationaloffice@fdlc.org. Thanks!