

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE **STUDY DAY** AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH
NATIONAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS



The Church at Prayer

☀ THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS ☾

STUDY DAY ONLY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM

HILTON INNER HARBOR
401 WEST PRATT STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201

HOSTED BY THE GOOD FOLKS OF REGION FOUR



SPONSORED BY THE
FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS
AND THE
BISHOPS' COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP



April 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Since its founding in 1969, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has been dedicated to liturgical formation. 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. We raise issues of concern facing the “grass roots” and seek to address them. Our Federation has a rich history.

This fall, we will meet in a city which surrounds us with an even richer Catholic history. At the gracious invitation of Archbishop William Lori, we will gather in Baltimore, Maryland, the Premiere See of the Church of the United States. We will worship in our country’s oldest Basilica.

And we will continue to make a little history of our own as we welcome Arthur Cardinal Roche, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican; Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, former Abbot Primate of the Benedictines; representatives of the Bishops Committee on Divine Worship; and an impressive list of experts who will offer a variety of formation sessions.

Our meeting will focus on **“The Church at Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours.”** In anticipation of the release of the new translation of the Hours, we will examine the psalms; will delve into the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours (GILH); will value the ancient tradition of sanctifying the day with prayer; and will appreciate the musical elements of the Divine Office. Finally, we will offer practical advice and useful resources that will encourage us to implement this liturgical prayer more fully in our parish communities.

On Wednesday, October 1, we will open the conference to students, seminarians, and local liturgical leaders so that they may participate in the Study Day, 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. This day will include Mass at the Basilica of the Assumption.

We are very grateful for the hard work of the good folks of Region IV. They have been tending to countless details and assure us of a warm welcome and a memorable meeting

Please join us for this fifty-sixth national meeting of diocesan liturgical commissions! As always, we will benefit from networking among colleagues, sharing ideas, examining pastoral practice, and studying the Liturgy. In all we do, may we invoke the Spirit’s guidance, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, and offer God due praise!

Blessings,



Rita A. Thiron
Executive Director, FDLC



STUDY DAY – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:00 *Study Day Registration opens – Holiday Ballroom Lobby (across skybridge from Hotel)*

8:30 *Morning Prayer*

9:00 *PLENARY ONE: Formation for the Liturgy, Formation by the Liturgy*

Synopsis: In June 2022, Pope Francis promulgated his landmark document on liturgical formation, *Desiderio desideravi*. In it we were encouraged to reflect on the intense desire of God to celebrate the Passover with us (Luke 22:15) each time we gather for the Eucharist. We were invited to value, yet again and still, the theological vision of the Council and its emphasis on the full, conscious, and active participation of the faithful. We are invited-- as servants of the reform -- to better enable that participation by providing formation *for* the liturgy and *by* the liturgy. How can we best prepare clergy and faithful to understand more deeply the liturgical act in which they are engaging? And how can we best celebrate the liturgy so that it continually forms the entire Church to become the Body of Christ?



Cardinal Arthur Roche serves as the Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican.

He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Leeds in 1975. He held several assignments in pastoral work and served as the coordinator of the visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to York in 1982. In 1991, he was sent to Rome to continue his studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University. In 1996, until his episcopal appointment, he was Secretary General of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. In 2002, Saint John Paul II appointed him coadjutor Bishop of Leeds and he succeeded to that episcopal role in 2004.

While serving in Leeds, he served as Chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) from 2002 to 2011. On June 26, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him as Secretary for the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments and appointed him to the dignity of Archbishop. On May 27, 2021, Pope Francis appointed him Prefect of the Congregation. On August 27, 2022, he was elevated to the rank of Cardinal.

10:30 *Break with exhibitors*

11:00 *Q & A with Cardinal Roche*

11:30 *Lunch (include in registration)*

1:00 *Plenary Two: Befriending the Psalms*

As liturgical leaders, we especially want to know and understand the biblical texts of our liturgical celebrations. For some people, the Psalms are a joy to enhance their prayer, but for others they are challenging. The more we know and understand the Psalms and make them a part of our personal prayer, the more effective we will be in leading others to the blessings of these biblical texts. Despite its challenges in language and culture they have been among the most cherished of biblical treasures. We get to know the Psalms by daily using them in our lives as a source of spiritual nourishment.



Abbot Gregory Polan was born in Berwyn, Illinois. He discerned a call to the Benedictine monastic way of life. He entered the novitiate of Conception Abbey in 1970 and made his religious profession as a monk in 1971, being given the name of "Gregory." He continued further studies at St. John's University and completed his M.A. in Theology in 1975. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1977. In 1984 he received his Ph.D. in Sacred Scripture.

Abbot Polan is a highly regarded translator of liturgical texts. A project to revise the Grail Psalms translation began in 1998 and received final approval from the Vatican in 2018. He was also involved with the revised Liturgy of the Hours, the Lectionary, the New American Bible, and the Roman Missal.

In September 2016, he was elected the Abbot Primate of the Order of St. Benedict and the Benedictine Confederation. (He was the tenth Abbot Primate and the fourth America to be elected.) Until 14 September 2024, he served as Abbot of the Primatial Abbey of Sant'Anselmo, the grand Chancellor of the Pontifical University of Saint Anselm, and oversaw the College of Sant'Anselmo as its prior and rector.

2:00 Journaling and Table Discussion

2:30 Break with Exhibitors

FOCUS SESSIONS

3:00 to 4:15

Session A: A General Introduction to the General Instruction

Anyone who prepares and prays the Divine Office must be familiar with the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours (GILH). It provides a rich theology on the nature of the Liturgy of the Hours, its importance in the life of the Church, and its power to sanctify the day. Moreover, it provides valuable practical insights into the structure of the celebration at various liturgical hours; the thoughtful arrangement of the psalms, canticles, Scripture, and the writings of the saints; and the flow of the texts during the course of the days, weeks, and seasons.

It gives particular emphasis to the common celebration of the Hours and the manner in which it is to be celebrated (cf. 253-284). For "The Liturgy of the Hours, like other liturgical actions, it is not something private, but belongs to the whole body of the Church, which it manifests and influences (GILH 20).



Dr. James M. Starke, PHD, STL is an Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology and Director of Liturgy at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. He earned a doctorate in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology, a masters in Philosophy, and an masters in Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology from the Catholic University of America (CUA). He was awarded a BS and MA in Physics from St. Louis University.

He served as Director of the Office of Divine Worship of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington and as an instructor for seminarian courses at CUA. Since 2020, he has served on the Board of Directors of the FDLC, the last two years as its Chair.

Focus Session B: A Brief History of the Liturgy of the Hours

Synopsis: The new translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours* builds upon a rich and varied history. This session will explore the ancient roots in Jewish traditions and the practices of New Testament communities.

Then it will examine the “cathedral” styles practiced in the Patristic era in the East and West. What contributions were made by early monastic communities and how did they contribute to the arrangement of the psalms and readings as recorded in various “rules”? How did our practices evolve through the centuries, from Trent to modern times? Finally, how did all of this contribute to the reform of the Divine Office at the Second Vatican Council?



Rev. R. Bruce Cinquegrani is a priest of the Diocese of Memphis where he serves as Director of the Office of Divine Worship. He is an assistant professor at Christian Brothers University and also serves as chaplain for the CBU community. He received his D. Min. in Liturgical Theology from Barry University in 2014. He also holds a B. A. in Religious Studies from Assumption College (1973), an M. Div. from St. Meinrad School of Theology (1979), and an M. A. in Liturgical Theology from the University of Notre Dame (1986).

He has been a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy since 1988 and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions since 1986. He serves on the FDLC Board of Directors.

Session C: Songs of Praise: Music and the Hours

“Sung celebrations of the Office, because it is more in keeping with the nature of this prayer and is a mark of greater solemnity, and the expression of a deeper union of hearts, in offering praise to God, is earnestly commended to those who perform the Divine Office in choir or in common” (GILH 268). “Singing is not to be regarded as an extrinsic embellishment to prayer; rather, it wells up from the depths of a soul intent on prayer and the praise of God and reveal in a full and perfect way the community nature of Christian worship” (GILH 270).

All the elements of the Hours allow the voice of the Church to express the voice of Christ. The Psalms have a musical character even when they are recited. The Antiphons are constructed for repetition and to increase understanding of the psalms. Canticles are drawn from both the Old and New Testament. Hymns and non-biblical songs are poetic expressions that provide participation by the people (GILH 173). How then, do we best prepare the Hours to allow each of these elements to give due praise to God?



Dr. Steven Janco holds master’s degrees in Theology and Church Music and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in Liturgy from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is the former Director of the Program for Music and Liturgy at Alverno College (Milwaukee) and the former Director of the Rensselaer Program of Church Music and Liturgy at Saint Joseph’s College.

He has served as a Director of Liturgy and Music in parishes for more than twenty-five years. He has served on the Executive Committee of The Hymn Society and on the board of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. Steve is a well-known composer of liturgical music, including four widely used Mass settings. His articles and reviews have been published in pastoral and academic journals.

**5:30 Eucharistic Liturgy at the
Basilica of the Assumption of the BVM
America’s oldest cathedral
Cardinal Arthur Roche, Principal Celebrant**

Free Night in Baltimore



THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

STUDY DAY

*St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church*

8:00	Study Day registration opens
8:30	Morning Prayer
9:00	Welcome
9:05	Plenary I (Cardinal Arthur Roche)
10:00	Journaling and Table Discussion
10:30	Coffee break; Exhibits Open
11:00	Q and A with Cardinal Roche
11:30	Luncheon Served
1:00	Plenary II (Abbot Gregory Polan)
2:00	Journaling and Table Discussion
2:30	Break with Exhibits
3:00	Focus Sessions (Starke, Cinquegrani, Janco)
4:15	Break
5:15	Mass at Basilica
6:30	Free Night in Baltimore

Christ has taught us the necessity of praying at all times without losing heart (Lk 18:1). The Church has been faithful in obeying this instruction; it never ceases to offer prayer, and makes this exhortation its own: "through Him (Jesus) let us offer to God an unceasing sacrifice of praise" (Heb 15:15). The Church satisfies this requirement not only by the celebration of the Eucharist but in other ways also, especially through the Liturgy of the Hours, which is distinguished from other liturgical actions by the fact that it consecrates to God the whole cycle of the day and night, as it has done since early Christian times.

General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours, 10



THE CHURCH AT PRAYER: THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS
National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions
September 30 to October 2, 2025
Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD

MEETING REGISTRATION OPTIONS: MEMBERS AND VISITORS

REGISTER TODAY ONLINE AT: www.fdlc.org/2025/register

REGISTRATION FEES	Registered <u>before</u> 9/1/25	Registered <u>after 9/1/25</u>	Checks may be mailed to the FDLC National Office 415 Michigan Ave, NE Suite 70 Washington, DC 20017
Member: Full Conference	\$425	\$450	
Non-Member: Full Conference	\$450	\$475	
Member: Recordings only	\$75	\$85	
Study Day Only (Non-Member)	\$95	\$145	
Study Day Only -- Recordings	\$75	\$85	
Extra Reception Ticket (Tuesday)	\$50	\$50	
Extra Lunch Ticket (Wednesday)	\$65	\$65	
Extra Banquet Ticket (Thursday)	\$110	\$110	
Donation to the Tabat Scholarship Fund*	\$5 or more	\$5 or more	
Donation to the Miguel Arias Scholarship**	\$5 or more	\$5 or more	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

*Grants from the Tabat Scholarship Fund annually support graduate students in Liturgical Studies.

**The Miguel Arias Scholarship supports the formation of Spanish-speaking leaders.

ACCESS TO RECORDINGS

We understand if you are unable to join us in-person for the 2025 FDLC National Meeting. We are pleased to offer the option to receive all recordings for a fee of \$75 (early bird price). This will include recorded versions of the plenary sessions, focus sessions, some liturgies, speeches and award presentations. Information including login instructions will be sent to registrants via email in September.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION

- ◆ The reception, banquet, and one lunch are included in your full meeting registration. Extra tickets for your guests are available as noted above.
- ◆ Requests for refunds, less \$35 processing fee, must be submitted in writing to the National Office by September 7. If ever the entire meeting is cancelled due to a nationwide health emergency, all monies will be refunded.
- ◆ For further information, contact the FDLC National Office at 202-635-6990 or nationaloffice@fdlc.org. Thanks!

For information on Exhibiting and/or Advertising, please visit our website.