

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIFTY-SEVENTH
NATIONAL MEETING OF DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSIONS



WORD OF GOD
living & effective

SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 1, 2026
THE GRADUATE BY HILTON
IOWA CITY, IA

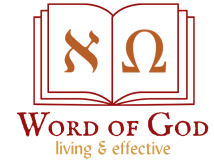
HOSTED BY THE GOOD FOLKS OF REGION NINE



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



April 2026



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.

Drawing from the Letter to the Hebrews (4:12) this year’s theme will be the “Word of God: Living and Effective.” The plenary sessions will encourage us to, once again and still, reflect on the word of God in the life of the Church. We will examine the Church’s rich history of assigning specific passages of Scripture to our liturgical year as they complement and unfold the Paschal Mystery. We will appreciate that the Homily is an opportunity for God to dialogue with his people.

In a rich buffet of additional workshops, we will consider other elements in the Liturgy of the Word and the many ways that Scripture enriches our sacramental rites, our initiation process, and our spiritual lives. May all this inspire us to improve liturgical and catechetical praxis.

We will also continue our synodal process and the “Conversations in the Spirit” which enlivened our spring regional meetings.

This year, we gather in the dynamic college town of Iowa City – home of the University of Iowa. We are very grateful for the kind invitation of Bishop Dennis Walsh of the Diocese of Davenport. We are indebted to all the good folks of Region IX, who have been tending to countless details. They assure us of a warm Midwest welcome, a memorable meeting, and not a little fun!

Please join us for this fifty-seventh national meeting of diocesan liturgical commissions! As always, we will benefit from networking among colleagues, sharing ideas, examining pastoral practice, and studying the Liturgy. Essential to our gathering will be reflection on the word of God, the celebration of the Hours, and the daily celebration of Mass.

In all we do, may we invoke the Spirit’s guidance, proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and offer God due praise!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita".

Rita A. Thiron
Executive Director, FDLC



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

7:30 **Registration Opens**

9:00 **Morning Prayer**

10:00 **Panel Presentation**

11:00 **Lunch (on own)**

12:30 **New Member Orientation**

1:00 **Opening Rite**

Welcome Addresses

Mrs. Kay Temple, Deacon Frank Agnoli, Local Chairs

Dr. James Starke, Board Chair

Mrs. Rita Thiron, Executive Director

2:15 **Break with Exhibits**

3:00 **Regional Caucuses and Conversations in the Spirit**

4:15 **Break**

4:45 **Board Buses to Mass**

5:30 **Opening Eucharistic Liturgy at the St. Patrick Church**
Bishop Dennis Walsh, Principal Celebrant

7:00 **"Taste of the Region" reception at St. Patrick Social Hall**

9:00 **Buses back to hotel**



STUDY DAY – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

8:00 *Study Day Registration opens*

8:30 *Morning Prayer*

9:00 **PLENARY ONE: THE WORD OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH:
STORIES THAT TELL US WHO WE ARE AND WHOSE WE ARE**

Hearing the Word of God proclaimed at Mass, year in and year out, shapes who we are as the People of God by telling us the story of salvation history, our place in that story, and who we are in relation to God's work in the world and to one another. The Church's theological understandings on the word of God – which include documents such as *Dei Verbum* and *Verbum Domini* – highlight the ways in which the word of God accomplishes the purpose for which it is sent out (cf. Isaiah 55:11). It is transformative, and its ritual proclamation in the liturgy and inherent connection with the liturgical year contributes to the formation of our Catholic, sacramental identity. The Liturgy of the Word is a foundational moment in the Mass that shapes our communal and individual identities, helps us to make meaning of our lives, and invites us to take up the story of salvation.



Dr. Christina Condyles is an Assistant Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology at Aquinas Institute in St. Louis, MO. She holds a PhD and MPhil from the Catholic University of America; an MA in Liturgical Studies from Saint John's University (Collegeville); and a BA from Mount St. Mary's University. Condyles' research focuses on sacramental identity and the ways in which liturgical participation shapes the daily living of Christian life.

Before coming to Aquinas Institute, she worked as an editor for Liturgy Training Publications (LTP), where she developed and edited many publications on liturgical ministries, the sacraments and liturgy, and catechesis. She has published several articles and presents workshops to parish and diocesan groups.

10:30 *Coffee Break with exhibitors*

11:00 **PLENARY TWO: WORD OF GOD AS LIVED IN THE CHURCH**

This presentation traces the historical evolution of the Liturgy of the Word, highlighting its theological significance and pastoral implications across two millennia of Christian worship. From the early Church's use of Scripture through the development of liturgical books of readings, to the Second Vatican Council's call to open wide the treasures of Sacred Scripture, this session will explore how the proclamation of the Word has been shaped by Tradition, reform, and ecclesial vision. What was the role of the Consilium in the creation of the revised Lectionary for Mass? How did the increase in pericopes affect the structure of the Lectionary and the cursus of readings? Why did the Council mandate the integration of Scripture into sacramental celebrations? How have more recent developments made an impact on our liturgical texts?



Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph. He holds a doctorate in Sacred Theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He is a consultor for the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. He serves as a facilitator for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

His publications include Sacred Times (Liturgical Press, 2024); Eucharistic Reservation (Liturgical Press, 2024); Present for God's Call: An Overview of the Rites of Institution and Ordination (LTP, 2022), and dozens of other titles.

He is a former president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, a member of Societas Liturgica, and the Catholic Academy of Liturgy. He is the recipient of the Jubilate Deo Award from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Frederick McManus Award from the FDLC, and Author of the Year Award from the Catholic Media Association.

Noon *Table Discussion*

12:30 *Lunch (provided)*

A-1 The Word of God in Christian Initiation

“Celebrations of the Word of God should be held, suited to the liturgical time, which serve both the instruction of the catechumens and the needs of the community... (OCIA 81). “...Their main purpose should be to implant in their hearts the teachings they are receiving; for example, the morality characteristic of the New Testament, the forgiving of injuries and insults, a sense of sins and repentance, [and] the duties Christians must carry out in the world,... (OCIA 82). This session will explore how Sacred Scripture is the foundational element for catechesis in the process of initiation. In the celebration of the rites, the assigned Scriptures, the ritual texts, ancient gestures, and rich symbolism combine to enrich the catechumenal journey to a new life in Christ.



D. Todd Williamson is the Director of the Office for Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a position he has held for 26 years. He is a speaker, author, and liturgist whose ministerial experience includes teaching and parish pastoral ministry. He graduated from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago with an M.T.S. in Liturgical Studies, and from Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit with a B.A. in English and Theology. He is an adjunct faculty member for St. Mary of the Lake University, Mundelein Illinois, and has also taught for the Institute of Pastoral Studies of Loyola University, Chicago, and St. Gregory University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. His most recent publications, Great is the Mystery, the Formational Power of Liturgy, and Guide for Celebrating the Rites of Christian Initiation with Adult and With Children, are published by Liturgy Training Publications.

A-2 Translations of the Bible

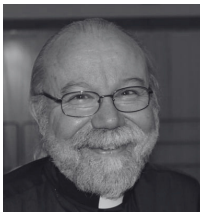
“In the liturgical assembly the word of God must always be read either from the Latin texts prepared by the Holy See or from vernacular translations approved for liturgical use by the Conferences of Bishops, according to existing norms” (Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass, 111). It “must be translated integrally in all its parts, including the Introduction” (*ibid*, 112). This session will offer insights into the process of Biblical translation, the careful scholarship which respects words and phrases, and the development and approval of a *Lectionary* and *Leccionario* for use in the dioceses of the United States.



Mary Elizabeth Sperry is the Associate Director of the USCCB's Office of the Biblical Apostolate. She holds a master's degree in liturgical studies from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has authored seven books and numerous articles. She currently serves as the Moderator of the Steering Committee of the Catholic Biblical Federation.

A-3 The Use of Scripture Outside Mass

The Second Vatican Council called for the “treasures of the Bible ...to be opened up more lavishly, so that a richer share in God’s word may be provided for the faithful.” (SC 51). This not only meant that a more generous cursus of readings would be read to the people over a three-year Sunday cycle and a two-year weekday cycle, but that the word of God would enrich celebrations of the sacraments, funerals, dedications of churches, blessings, and the Hours. How do we best choose from among the generous options in our ritual texts? How do we engage the assembly by proclaiming and preaching on these assigned readings?



Deacon Frank Agnoli, OFS, M.D., DMin., is the Director of the Liturgy and the Director of Deacon Formation for the Diocese of Davenport. He was ordained for the Diocese of Lexington in 2002. He worked as a family physician in rural Kentucky for a number of years before returning to school to earn his Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theology degrees at St. John's University School of Theology and Seminary. Frank, his wife Marianne, and their two children then returned to Kentucky where he served for five years as the Pastoral Director of two parishes. He completed the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching degree from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in May 2009 and earned the Certificate in Homiletic Supervision from the St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in 2013.

3:30 TO 4:45 WORKSHOPS - SESSION B

B-1 Lord, Hear our Prayer

The Second Vatican Council restored the Universal Prayer as an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word. “In the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all” (GIRM 69). What principles should govern the composition of these prayers? What should they routinely address? What petitions might be added for particular celebrations, e.g., Confirmation, Marriage, and funerals (GIRM 70)? What intentions or announcements should be avoided during this liturgical action?



Jeremy Helmes is the Director of the Worship and the Director of the Center for Parish Vitality for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. He holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree in religious studies from the University of Dayton. He serves as Treasurer on the FDLG Board of Directors. He is a popular speaker on matters related to liturgy and parish management and revitalization.

B-2 Proclaiming the Psalms

“The responsorial psalm, also called the Gradual, has great liturgical and pastoral significance because it is an ‘integral part of the liturgy of the word’ (GIRM 36). Accordingly, the faithful must be continually instructed in the way to perceive the word of God speaking in the Psalms and turn these psalms into the prayer of the Church” (Intro LM 19). How can the cantor/psalmist grasp a deeper appreciation of the spirituality of the Psalms? How should the genre of the psalm (lament, praise, royal, and thanksgiving) influence the psalm setting? What language(s) should be chosen for the good of the faithful?



Dr. Dolores Martinez recently retired as the Director of the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of San Antonio (1993-2006; 2018-2024). She has served as a consultant to the Bishop's Subcommittee on Divine Worship in Spanish and as an adjunct professor at the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC). She holds a PhD in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University. She continues to serve parishes as a minister of music.

B-3 Meditation on the Word of God

The practice of Lectio Divina (“divine reading”) is a traditional Christian monastic practice of slow, contemplative Scripture reading designed to promote communion with God. It consists of four main movements: *Lectio* (reading), *Meditatio* (meditating), *Oratio* (praying), and *Contemplatio* (contemplating), often followed by *Actio* (acting on the word). How can this practice enrich one's spiritual life? How can it benefit lectors, preachers, and members of the assembly? How can it lead to a better understanding of the word of God and our Christian life?



Dr. David Pitt is a professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology in the Catholic Studies Department at Loras College (Dubuque, IA). These academic interests guide his teaching and his research, investigating areas in which the tradition of the Church informs and directs contemporary pastoral practice.

He holds a BA from St. Jerome University (1997); an MA in liturgical music and organ performance from St. John's University, Collegeville (1998); and a PhD from the University of Notre Dame (2007) focusing on the reform of the rites for adult initiation. He co-edited *A Living Tradition: Essays on the Intersection of Liturgical History and Pastoral Practice* (Liturgical Press, 2012). He is the author of over sixty essays, articles, and book reviews. He especially focuses on the OCIA, the liturgical year, and liturgical music.

4:45 Break to get ready and walk to the church (transport available, if needed)

**5:15 Mass at the Newman Center
Most Reverend Thomas Zinkula,
Archbishop of Dubuque, Principal Celebrant**

6:45 Free Night in Iowa City



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:00 *Regional Caucuses and Conversations in the Spirit*

8:45 *Morning Prayer*

9:30 *Morning with the BCDW*

An update on the liturgical texts and the activities of the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship

Most Reverend Michael G. Woost

Chair, Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship

Rev. Dustin Dought

Executive Director, Secretariat for Divine Worship



10:30 *Break with exhibitors*

11:00 PLENARY THREE: THE WORD OF GOD AS DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOD AND HIS CHURCH

How often do we reflect on the pastoral and ritual dimensions of the Liturgy of the Word and its role as a living dialogue between God and the Church? Drawing on theological insights and historical developments, this session will examine how the readings, preaching, Creed, and Universal Prayer form a unified liturgical movement that calls the faithful to encounter, conversion, communion, and mission. Special attention will be given to the homiletic task, not only as an explanation of the readings but as a bridge between Scripture and the lived realities of the assembly. How can effective preaching foster true discipleship?



Fr. Michael Connors is a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. A Chicago native, he was ordained in 1984. He is recently retired from the University of Notre Dame where he served as associate professor in areas of pastoral and practical Theology and as Director of the John S. Marten program of Homiletics and Liturgics. He holds a ThD from Regis College, Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto.

*He is the author of several books and edited volumes, including *Incultured Pastoral Planning (Rome)*; *Preaching as Spiritual Leadership: Guiding the Faithful as Mystic and Mystagogue (LTP, 2021)*; *Effective Preaching: Bringing People into an Encounter with God (LTP, 2019)*; *Preaching for Discipleship: Preparing Homilies for Christian Initiation. (LTP, 2017)*; *To All the World: Preaching and the New Evangelization (Liturgical Press, 2016)*; *We Preach Christ Crucified (Liturgical Press, 2014)*.*

Fr. Connors focuses on the intersection of faith, culture, and community, particularly within the U.S. Catholic Church, offering resources and insights for preachers and ministers on how to create vibrant, evangelizing communities through effective homilies and liturgical practice.

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Noon *Liturgy of Remembrance*

12:15 *Lunch and Exhibits*

1:30 *Business Session A*

3:00 *Break*

3:15 *Business Session B*

4:45 *Conversations in the Spirit - Synopsis*

5:00 *Break* **Walk to St. Mary's (or transport available)**

5:30 *Mass at St. Mary Church*
Bishop Michael Woost, Principal Celebrant

7:00 *Cocktails - Graduate Hotel*

7:30 *Banquet and Awards*

8:45 *Invitation from Region XII*



HELPFUL INFORMATION

HOTEL INFORMATION

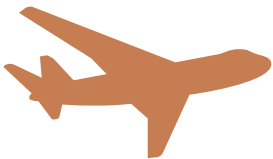
Graduate by Hilton Iowa City
210 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Special FDLR Room Rate – only \$115 per night!

Please book your room directly using this special passkey link:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/51175015>

Free guest parking, free wi-fi



AIRPORT INFORMATION

- Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) in Cedar Rapids, about 25 minutes north of Iowa City
- Quad City International Airport (MLI) one hour south, just across Illinois border
- Des Moines International Airport (DSM) 1.5 hours west
- Dubuque Regional Airport (DBQ) 1.5 hours northeast



GROUND TRANSPORTATION

Anaman Concierge Shuttle from CID to Graduate Hotel

Reservation Phone: 319-382-5839

Use code "FDLCIowa_2026" to receive special rate of \$20 pp plus 20% gratuity)

Uber and Taxis available

OR limo service www.expressmidwest.com \$102 and up



DRIVING THERE?

From Chicago – 222 miles (3.5 hours)

From St. Louis – 260 miles (4 hours)

From Kansas City, MO -- 307 miles (4.5 hours)

From Omaha, NE – 248 miles (3.75 hours)



THE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

St. Wenceslas, St. Lorenzo Ruiz

- 9:00 Committee Set-up
- 1:00 Board Meeting until 9:00 PM
- 5:00 Evening Prayer
- Varies Early Arrivals

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

- 7:30 Registration Opens
- 8:30 Exhibit set up until 11:00
- 9:00 Morning Prayer
- 10:00 Panel and Discussion
- 11:30 Lunch (on own)
- 12:30 New Member Orientation
- 1:00 Opening Rite and Welcome
- 2:15 Break with Exhibits
- 3:00 Regional Caucuses
with Conversations in the Spirit
- 4:15 Break
- 4:30 Buses to St. Patrick
- 5:30 Mass at St. Patrick Church
(with Bishop Dennis Walsh)
- 7:00 "Taste of the Region"
at St. Patrick Social Hall
- 9:15 Buses back to hotel

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 - STUDY DAY

St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

- 8:00 Study Day registration opens
- 8:30 Morning Prayer
- 9:00 Welcome
- 9:05 Plenary I (Dr. Christina Condyles)
- 10:00 Journaling and Table Discussion
- 10:30 Coffee break; Exhibits Open
- 11:00 Plenary II (Fr. Paul Turner)
- Noon Table Discussion
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Workshops - Session A
- 2:45 Break with Exhibitors
- 3:30 Workshops - Session B
- 4:45 Break
- 5:15 Mass at Newman Center
(with Archbishop Thomas Zinkula)
- 6:45 Free Night in Iowa City

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

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

- 8:00 Regional Caucuses
- 8:45 Morning Prayer
- 9:30 Morning with BCDW
- 10:30 Break with Exhibits
- 11:00 Plenary III (Fr. Michael Connors, CSC)
- Noon Liturgy of Remembrance
- 12:15 Lunch and Exhibits
- 1:30 Business Session A
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Business Session B (Committee Work)
- 4:45 Summary: Conversations in the Spirit
- 5:00 Break
- 5:30 Mass at St. Mary's Church
(with Bishop Michael Woost)
- 7:00 Cocktails
- 7:30 Banquet and Awards

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Holy Guardian Angels

Check out for most participants
More time in Iowa City

“

The word of God is thus expressed in human words thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit. The missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable and constitute a single economy of salvation. The same Spirit who acts in the incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary is the Spirit who guides Jesus throughout his mission and is promised to the disciples. The same Spirit who spoke through the prophets sustains and inspires the Church in her task of proclaiming the word of God and in the preaching of the Apostles; finally, it is this Spirit who inspires the authors of Sacred Scripture.

Verbum Domini, 15

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WORD OF GOD, LIVING AND EFFECTIVE

National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

September 29 to October 1, 2026

The Graduate by Hilton, Iowa City, IA

MEETING REGISTRATION OPTIONS: MEMBERS AND VISITORS

REGISTER TODAY ONLINE AT: www.fdlc.org/2026/register

REGISTRATION FEES	Registered <u>before</u> 9/1/26	Registered <u>after</u> 9/1/26	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.

WORKSHOP SELECTIONS: **SESSION A** A-1 Williamson A-2 Sperry A-3 Agnoli
Please choose only 1 from each session **SESSION B** B-1 Helmes B-2 Martinez B-3 Pitt

BANQUET SELECTION: Chicken Fish Vegetarian

ACCESS TO RECORDINGS

We understand if you are unable to join us in-person for the 2026 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.