

Abouna Dominique's Corner: Ideas to Improve Participation at the Liturgy

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The Pontiff noted a recommendation from the synod fathers that pastors should promote times devoted to such celebrations, "privileged occasions for an encounter with the Lord." "This practice will certainly benefit the faithful, and should be considered an important element of liturgical formation," he said. "Celebrations of this sort are particularly significant as a preparation for the Sunday Eucharist; they are also a way to help the faithful to delve deeply into the riches of the Lectionary, and to pray and meditate on sacred Scripture, especially during the great liturgical seasons of Advent (Announcement) and Christmas, Lent and Easter."

The second recommendation involves the word and silence. "The word, in fact, can only be spoken and heard in silence, outward and inward," the Pope affirmed. But, he observed, "Ours is not an age which fosters recollection; at times one has the impression that people are afraid of detaching themselves, even for a moment, from the mass media." Thus people must be "educated in the value of silence," the Bishop of Rome suggested. "Rediscovering the centrality of God's word in the life of the Church also means rediscovering a sense of recollection and inner repose. [...] Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence." The Pope called for the liturgy of the word to be celebrated in such a way that favors meditation. "Silence, when called for, should be considered 'a part of the celebration,'" he said.

Getting their attention

Benedict XVI encouraged a solemn proclamation of the word of God, with outward signs such as carrying the Gospel Book in procession, or singing the Gospel on certain solemnities. He gave consideration to practical matters such as church acoustics and the visibility and decoration of the sanctuary. The Holy Father also reiterated Church law that Scripture may not be replaced by other texts."

The sixth recommendation has to do with liturgical song. In this regard, the Pope observed: "As part of the enhancement of the word of God in the liturgy, attention should also be paid to the use of song at the times called for by the particular rite. Preference should be given to songs which are of clear biblical inspiration and which express, through the harmony of music and words, the beauty of God's word. We would do well to make the most of those songs handed down to us by the Church's tradition which respect this criterion.

Finally, the Holy Father made special mention of the visually and hearing impaired. "I encourage our Christian communities to offer every possible practical assistance to our brothers and sisters suffering from such impairments," he exhorted, "so that they too can be able to experience a living contact with the word of the Lord."

Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

NO Liturgy on Saturday, November 20th: Between November 16th and 22nd, Father Dominique will be out of town. He will be in Washington DC to participate in the Clergy Day organized by the Eparchy. During the weekend, he will be in Chicago attending the ordination of Msgr. Alfred Badawi to the order of Chorbishops. Father David Musso will be covering for him on Sunday, November 21st for the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock Liturgy only.

Family Portraits for the Ad Book: On November 14th, Mark Najjar at Atlanta Studios will be taking family portraits for the Ad Book of our Centennial. The photos will be shot at different locations around the church, both inside & outside. MYO, MYA, MCF students and teachers, Altar Servers, Altar & Rosary Society, Choir

Bake Sale: The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society is organizing a bake sale for Sunday November 14. Home made delicacies will be available for sale after both masses. The ladies encourage every member of the parish to donate and purchase items for the benefit of the Church. If you would like to bring something for the bake table please contact Dany Dagher at danydagher@hotmail.com.

Pastoral Council Breakfast: The members of the Pastoral Council will organize a breakfast on November 21st after the 9 and 11 o'clock liturgy. Make sure to attend to experience and encourage our pastoral council member in their task in serving the Church.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Toy or Gift Drive: We are having a parish-wide toy or gift drive for patients at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. Toys or gifts must be **brand new** and **unwrapped**. Please no balloons, guns or items that suggest violence or fighting. Gifts must be safe, sturdy and non-toxic. The drive starts Sunday, Oct. 24th and continues through Sunday, Dec. 5th. The age range of patients at Egleston's is from infancy up to 21 years old. Please leave your gifts in the receptacle provided for this purpose in the downstairs hallway. Let us all try to make a hospitalized girl or boy happier this Christmas season. For further info, please contact Reem Ragy or Marie DiPaola.

100th Anniversary Ad/ Commemorative book: On the occasion of its centennial celebration, our parish is putting together an Ad book. Families as well as businesses could acquire a form at the entrance of the Church or from the members of the Centennial Committee. For more information please see Louie Abdou contact info in the bulletin.

Junior Choir: There will be a junior choir rehearsal for children between 7 - 18 every Sunday after the 11:00 o'clock liturgy. George Moussa and Cecilia Romero will be in charge of the Choir. Please encourage the children to take part in this activity.

NAM Awareness Sunday: Shehade Chihane, Louis Ragy and Tracy Doueir are the delegates for NAM (National Apostolate for Maronites) representing Saint Joseph Parish. On Sunday, December 5th, they will be giving an awareness session explaining to the community the importance of the NAM on the parish and eparchial (diocesan) level.



*The Ladies Altar Society of St. Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church
 Invites all ladies 12 years and up to attend the
 5:00 mass and Christmas Banquet
 To be held at
 St. Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church
 On Saturday, the fourth of December
 Festive Attire*

*Per Person Fee \$25.00
 RSVP by Sunday, November 28th*

Christmas Menu

*Assorted Hors d'oeuvres
 Spring Mix Salad with Roasted Pecans
 Rosemary Roast of Beef Tenderloin
 Grilled Wild Alaskan Salmon
 Roasted Potatoes
 Gourmet Green beans
 Roasted Asparagus
 Dinner Rolls
 Assorted Holiday Desserts*

White Elephant Gift Exchange

If you would like to participate in a White Elephant Gift Exchange, please bring a gift (up to \$15.00 value) to share.

Number of Attendee(s): _____ Contact number: _____
 Name(s) of attendee: _____

****Please submit RSVP and payment by Sunday, November 28th. RSVP and payment may be given to Mary Ann Fennell or Lisa Nassar or placed in the drop box located in the downstairs hall.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL 2011

Friday December 31, 2010 (8 PM to 3 AM)

TICKET PRICE (Donation)

Adults: \$75

Child: \$30 (3 yrs - 14yrs)



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