

COMMISSION ON LITURGY

Underlying Principles

Vatican II's *Sacrosanctum Consilium* rightly considered the Liturgy as "*culmen et fons*," i.e. the summit and fount of the entire life of the Church. If this is so, it is all the more important for us, who dedicate ourselves wholly to the search for God in community, to take the Liturgy as the source and summit of all our spiritual, communal and apostolic endeavors.

It should be noted, however that it is an error and a mistake to think of the liturgy as merely the external or visible part of divine worship or as an ornamental ceremonial. No less erroneous is the notion that it consists solely in a list of laws and prescriptions according to which the sacred rites are to be performed (Principles of Liturgy, AG Martimort, 10).

Our Constitutions calls us to a special responsibility for prayer and celebration of the Liturgy of the Church (Const. 80) and in order that our communities and the people we are serving may be led to full, conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations it is important that all the friars know their role and responsibility in worship (cf. Const. 82).

Situational Analysis

1. With the release of the new English Translation of the Roman Missal, a need to revise and harmonize our liturgical and ritual text arises, especially the Santo Niño Mass. It should be noted, though, that this entails the approval of proper ecclesiastical authorities. The General Curia of the Order already sent to our communities and institutions the new English translation of the Augustinian Missal.
2. Some friars and seminarians of the province have liturgical compositions (songs, prayers, novenas) and other liturgically related works. But there is not a good collection of them, nor are they published for liturgical use of the province. A collection and/or publication of these works will encourage the friars and seminarians to compose more.
3. The commission does not have its own set of liturgical vestments which are very important for special occasions such as professions, ordinations and anniversaries.
4. There is no uniformity in celebrating the memorials and feasts of the Saints of the Order, and the required readings are not properly observed due to lack of consciousness of the Augustinian liturgical celebrations.
5. While we all eagerly promote devotion to our province's titular, the Santo Nino de Cebu, we have been negligent in promoting our other unique Augustinian devotions such as the devotion to La Consolacion and to some of our saints.

Action Plans

1. To revise ritual texts such as the Mass and Novena to Santo Nino, and possibly their translation in different Philippine languages and harmonize it with the new English translation of the *editio typica tertia* of the Roman Missal. Ecclesiastical approval will be needed here.

2. To continue collecting liturgically related compositions of friars and seminarians and other related works (e.g. prayers and novenas) and publish them, preferably next year.
3. To purchase vestments such as stoles and chasubles for the Province.
4. To adopt a distinctive Provincial Augustinian liturgical rite on significant celebrations such as funeral mass, silver or golden anniversaries based on the Ritual of the Order and from duly approved liturgical books and texts.
5. To produce Augustinian inspired prayers of the faithful in English and Filipino for use in our schools, parishes and other institutions, an Augustinian Funeral Rite and other prayers pertinent to our Order.
6. To publish an Augustinian Ordo/ Bible Diary for the whole Province that will contain not only the Order of Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours but also the birthdays and anniversaries of our friars.
7. To promote devotion to the saints of the Order by publishing novenas and prayers.
8. To form a core group of retreat and recollection facilitators in the province.
9. Friars assigned to the Spirituality Center should be prepared to make programs and modules for recollection and be able to facilitate them.