



Catholic Diocese of Richmond Office of Worship

2150 Cunningham Drive, Hampton, Virginia 23666

To: Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians
From: Fr. Sean Prince, Director, Office of Worship
RE: Prayer opportunities and options following the aftermath in Charlottesville

As we continue to pray in the aftermath of the devastating events in Charlottesville, the Office of Worship—in response to Bishop DiLorenzo’s statement on August 14th—is passing along the following prayer opportunities and options. Bishop DiLorenzo encourages all of our parish communities to consider any of these opportunities and/or options, or too, another appropriate opportunity for a parish community to join together in prayer.

Mass

- If a community desires to celebrate a special Mass in light of the events in Charlottesville, under Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, there are three potential options:
 - #15. For Promoting Harmony
 - #30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice
 - #31. In Time of War or Civil DisturbanceThese settings contain a Collect, Prayer over the Offerings, and Prayer after Communion. While option #31 is possible, options #30 or #15 may be more appropriate over #31; the language of the texts may be more appropriate in #15 or #30.
- For Eucharistic Prayer options, Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation Option I or Option II may be appropriate. In fact, in the instructions before these Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation, the instructions suggest using these two possible options when celebrating a Mass for #15. For Promotion Harmony, #30. For the Preservation of Peace and Justice, and #31. In Times of War or Civil Disturbance. It lists a few other Mass settings for when these Eucharistic Prayers could be used, but those three options (#15, #30, #31) seem to be the most appropriate settings in the light of recent events. These Eucharistic Prayers contain a preface to be used OR another preface could be used, too.
- The Prayer of the Faithful could be drafted to include petitions speaking to the current situation.
- For readings, if a parish desires to have a special Mass, the Lectionary, Volume IV has options under Masses for Various Needs and Occasions:
 - #14. For Peace and Justice
 - #16. In Time of War or Civil Disturbance
 - #28. For the Promotion of Charity or To Foster Harmony or For Family and Friends

As it states in the instructions offered in the introduction of Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in *The Roman Missal*: “In case of some grave need, a corresponding Mass may be said on the instructions of the local Ordinary or with his permission...” It continues on, listing those times when there is an exception to doing so. **At this time, Bishop DiLorenzo grants permission for the use of a corresponding Mass in response to the events in Charlottesville. In addition, a corresponding Mass may be used in place of a Sunday in Ordinary Time, however, the Sunday readings provided for the Sundays in Ordinary Time should not be replaced.**

Morning/Evening Prayer.

- While there is no specific setting in the Breviary/Liturgy of the Hours that matches the Mass setting options provided above, a community could arrange a morning or evening prayer with appropriate Psalms that speak to peace, justice, mercy, turning to God in our time of need.
- In the back of the Breviary, there are options for Additional Prayers (Appendix III). From a quick scan, the options #32 and #33 could be used.
- In addition, if a community pulls together a morning prayer/evening prayer, prayer texts from the Mass settings aforementioned could be used as the opening and/or closing prayer for the celebration.
- Rather than reciting the Psalms selected, a community may choose to sing various Psalms.
- As many of you know, there are many options for arranging a Morning/Evening prayer and centering the prayer around peace, justice, mercy, turning to God in our time of need, etc.

Communal Rosary.

Holy Hour.

- This could occur, too, in various forms
- Communities are encouraged to consult the ritual book *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass* for complete details on structuring a Holy Hour celebration.
- The USCCB has a resource for a possible Holy Hour for Peace on their website:
<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/adoration/holy-hour-for-peace.cfm>

This letter will soon be posted on our website at www.cdrworship.org.

Should you have any questions, as always, please feel free to contact us in the Office of Worship.

On this Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, because of Mary's faithful response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, she was lifted body and soul into heaven. May we too, through our faithful response, be lifted up.

Peace and God bless,



Rev. Sean M. Prince
Director, Office of Worship

August 15, 2017