

O SACRUM CONVIVIUM ...

Shown here is a fragment of the quotation from St Thomas Aquinas that appears on the drum of the

Cathedral interior dome.

The quotation, which is black on a gold surface, reads:

“O Sacrum Convivium, in quo Christus sumitur, recolitur memoria passionis eius, mens impletur gratia et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur, alleluia.” In English, the translation

reads: “O Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received, the memory of his passion is renewed, where the soul is filled with grace, and a pledge of

future glory is given to us, alleluia.”



The quotation is famous because it is a concise summary of the theology of the Eucharist. When one looks up at the dome from the Cathedral floor, these words will loom large — a reminder that this cathedral (and this city) is dedicated to the Eucharist. The 15-inch-high vinyl letters,

which came on strips of paper, were pressed to the surface. The entire surface was then varnished with a transparent shellac to protect it.

PICNIC FOR VOLUNTEERS THIS FRIDAY JUNE 3

The annual Parish Picnic for Volunteers at the Cathedral Parish will be held at East Portal Park (51st and M Streets) on this coming Friday, June 3, 2005 from 5:00pm to dusk. All Altarservers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Choir members, Teachers for catechism classes and RCIA, St. Vincent de Paul members, money counters, and all their families are cordially invited to attend.

This picnic is our way of saying “Thank you” to all those who have volunteered in the various ministries

throughout the year. Gift certificates to local restaurants and hotels will be given out during the picnic.

People whose last name begins with any letter from A to M may bring salads or fruit. People whose last names begin with any letter from N to Z may bring deserts or chips and salsa. The Cathedral Parish will provide the rest.



JAZZ JUBILEE 2005

JAZZ MASSES TODAY AT WESTMINSTER

Our Jazz Mass tradition continues as part of the 2005 Jazz Jubilee during this Memorial Day Weekend. **We will have two Jazz Masses today: one at 12:30 pm and one at 5:00 pm, both at Westminster**

Presbyterian Church. The usual 5:00 pm Mass at St. Elizabeth's Church will not be held today. The music at the Mass will be in contemporary liturgical style with jazz and Gospel roots. A large choir and jazz combo will be part of the celebration under the direction of Jackson Schoos, Director of Liturgy at the Cathedral, and Roy Spicer, Director of Music at Holy Rosary Parish in Woodland. Valimar Jansen, a Gospel singer from Los Angeles, will again be with us to lead the singing.

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

CHOPPING UP THE BIBLE

Reverend Lawrence E. Mick

Consider this challenge: Take the whole Bible and figure out how to cut it up into bite-sized pieces that can be used over 156 Sundays, plus a few dozen major feast days. Take into account the seasons of the Liturgical year, as well as 2000 years of previous ways of doing the same thing. Then, when you have all the Sundays and major feasts figured out, decide how to divide what's left into about six hundred weekdays to create a two-year list of readings for daily Mass. Add to that another whole set of Masses for special needs and occasions, including weddings and funerals, all of which need a number of readings for different circumstances.

In the process, of course, you will have to decide which verses of the Bible are most important and which ones we should never read out loud in church. You have to determine how long each reading should be and where to start and stop each passage. Then you have to choose appropriate psalms for the responsorial psalm after the first reading and appropriate verses for the acclamation before the gospel.

Those are just some of the challenges faced by those who created the book of readings that we call the lectionary. In making their decisions, they used two main patterns for choosing readings.

Generally the first reading is from the Old Testament, though during the Easter season it comes from the Acts of the Apostles. The second reading is from the New Testament letters or the Book of Revelation, and the third text is from one of the four gospels. For major feasts, like Christmas and Easter, all the readings are chosen to fit the feast, so they all fit together well.

In Ordinary Time, outside the major festal seasons, a different principle comes into play. We read through the

gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, one each year, in what is called a semicontinuous reading. We don't read every verse, but we work through the gospel chapter by chapter. John's gospel is used most often during the Easter season in all three years.

The first reading is then chosen to relate to the gospel passage, and the psalm is chosen to respond to that first reading. The second reading, though, is also a semicontinuous reading of other New Testament books, especially the letters of St. Paul. This means it goes its merry way, not necessarily linked to the other readings but giving us another set of ideas to ponder.

The goal of this rather complicated structure is simple: to expose us to more of the Bible than we used to hear in church. Before 1970, the Lectionary had only one year's worth of readings; now there is a three-year cycle for Sundays and a two-year cycle for weekdays.

The reason for this, of course, is that Christians look to the Bible as the source of wisdom and as a way to meet

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 5/30/2005	Ordinary Time Weekday
	7:00 am: No Mass (Memorial Day Holiday)
	12:00 noon: No Mass (Memorial Day Holiday)
TUES 5/31/2005	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	7:00 am: All Souls
	12:00 noon: Brenda Adams, S.I. (Birthday)
WED 6/1/2005	St. Justin
	7:00 am: All Souls
	12:00 Noon: Patrick Hilferty +
THURS 6/2/2005	St. Marcellinus & St. Peter
	7:00 am: Anna Loi Nguyen +
	12:00 noon: All Souls
FRI 6/3/2005	Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
	7:00 am: Anna Loi Nguyen +
	12:00 Noon: All Souls