

in a

# Word™

A Publication of The Society of the Divine Word, Southern Province

Volume 29, No. 7, September 2011



**YOU MAY ONLY BE SOMEONE IN THE  
WORLD, BUT TO SOMEONE ELSE,  
YOU MAY BE THE WORLD**

Photo by: Father James Pawlicki, SVD

# IS LITURGY THE ACTION OF THE PEOPLE?

by

Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD

“Vatican Call to formalize Communion Ritual,” read the August 4, 2011 headline of The Australian, Australia’s national newspaper. Antonio Cardinal Lloven, the Vatican Spanish official in charge of the Mass, wants Catholics to revert to receiving Communion on the tongue while kneeling.

In a statement certain to infuriate modernist liturgical advocates, the cardinal went on to say, such a “sign of adoration needs to be recovered.” “I think the entire church needs to receive Communion while kneeling,” said the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. “It is to simply know that we are before God himself and that he came to us and that we are undeserving,” he told the Catholic News Agency during a visit to Peru last week.

“If we trivialize Communion, we trivialize everything, and we cannot lose a moment as important as that of receiving Communion, of recognizing the real presence of Christ,” the cardinal emphasized, adding that Catholics who receive Communion while standing should make “a genuflection or profound bow.”

Emanating from the mouth of one of the Vatican’s most powerful officials, the statement clearly reflects Pope Benedict XVI’s desire to tighten up liturgical practices, a trend spearheaded by the new, more formal translation of the Mass. Cardinal Lloven’s statement is a partial answer to your many question marks about the new translation.

It should be noted that post- Second Vatican Council Australian Catholics were given the option in 1975 of receiving Communion either kneeling or standing, on the tongue or in the hand. Australia’s National Liturgical Council Executive Secretary, Peter Williams, said responsibility for such practices rested with national bishops’ conferences.

All of us, of course, have those same options, and communicants come up displaying their personal choice of opening their mouth with a waiting tongue or of cupping one hand with their dominant hand on the bottom. Either of these methods works. However, some folks walk up without clearly declaring their intentions. For example, some stand before the Eucharistic Minister for a few ambiguous moments with neither their mouth open nor their hands out. One also occasionally sees a bewildered communicant with mouth partially open and hands out.

Another scenario is that the communicant arrives and – tuh duh! – at the very last moment the mouth flies open or the hands shoot out in readiness. The faked-out minister can only wait patiently until the communicant declares openly, perhaps after making the sign of the cross, bowing deeply, genuflecting or combining a couple of these.

Unfortunately, receiving Communion on the tongue is hazardous to hygiene, for most Eucharistic Ministers get wet lips or a tongue on their fingers several times during a Mass. Saliva-laced fingers should not be picking up the next host for a communicant.

First of all, Cardinal Lloven and others forget that Jesus did his Last Supper ceremony – Communion and all – at table with his apostles. And in those days they did not sit, but reclined at table. How is that for a reverential posture for Holy Communion?

Secondly, the good Cardinal and others seem to forget over and over again that liturgy is not the action of the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests or deacons, but of the people, stemming from the Greek roots *leitōs* and *ourgia*; literally, action of the people.

To be sure, the Pope is the head man, but his official title reads, “Servant of the Servants of God,” or the Latin, “*Servus Servorum Dei*.” Thus, he fulfills the mandate of Christ in Mark 9:35: “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the servant of all.”

Liturgists make numerous rules, but there is only one supreme rule of liturgy: Does this action of the people embody what makes the people most comfortable with and closer to God, more fervent in prayer and more determined to live the Good News? That will differ somewhat according to one’s origins, culture, environment and tastes.

Cardinal Lloven, only children and young adults can genuflect cleanly and gracefully. For most, it is an exercise in geriatric clumsiness. Also, our most reverential moments receiving Communion will be as we lie supine on our sickbed and deathbed.

*“God is love, and all who abide in love abide in God and God in them.”  
(1 John 4:16)*

# NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE 2011

## Men To Men

**Theme: Spiritual Legacy,  
Reach One, Teach One Part II  
October 13-16, 2011  
Jackson, Mississippi**



**The Roberts Walthall Hotel  
225 East Capitol Street  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: (601) 948-6161**

For More Information Call: (317) 259-0144 or  
Visit Our Website:  
[www.bowmanfrancisministry.com](http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com)

## WHY A BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE?

We are committed Black men,  
principally Catholic, who  
recognize our need  
for God's help!

We gather in Christ's presence  
in an atmosphere of trust,  
equality and anonymity to  
share personal feelings  
and experiences. We  
unconditionally accept one  
another and prayerfully  
support one another.  
We feel encouraged by the  
Holy Spirit to share with  
one another...

**Men to Men!**

*I have come so that you may have life,  
and have it abundantly"*

(John 10:10)

### REGISTER AT:

[www.bowmanfrancisministry.com](http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com):

Adults: \$125.00

High School & College Students: \$60.00

Youth Ages 8-13: \$40.00

***Mail registration payments to:***

**Bowman Francis Ministry Project**

**Chester P. Smith**

**815 East 58th Street**

**Indianapolis, Indiana 46220**

# in a word or two

## 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

Saint Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, has faithfully served as a Christian beacon of hope and faith in the City of Atlanta since November 11, 1954. In celebration of this important milestone and to raise funds for church improvements a Car Raffle has been launched and a Celebration Dinner planned. The drawing for the prize, a 2012 KIA Sorento EX, will take place on October 21, 2011 at the Ollivette Allison Life Learning Center, 667 Fairburn Road, SW, Atlanta, GA 30318. Tickets are \$30 for Adults and \$18 for Children, under 15 years of age and must be purchased by October 9, 2011. For more information on where to purchase Raffle tickets or purchase Celebration Events tickets, please visit the St. Paul of the Cross web site, [www.stpaulofthecross.org](http://www.stpaulofthecross.org) or contact the Parish office at 404-696-6704.



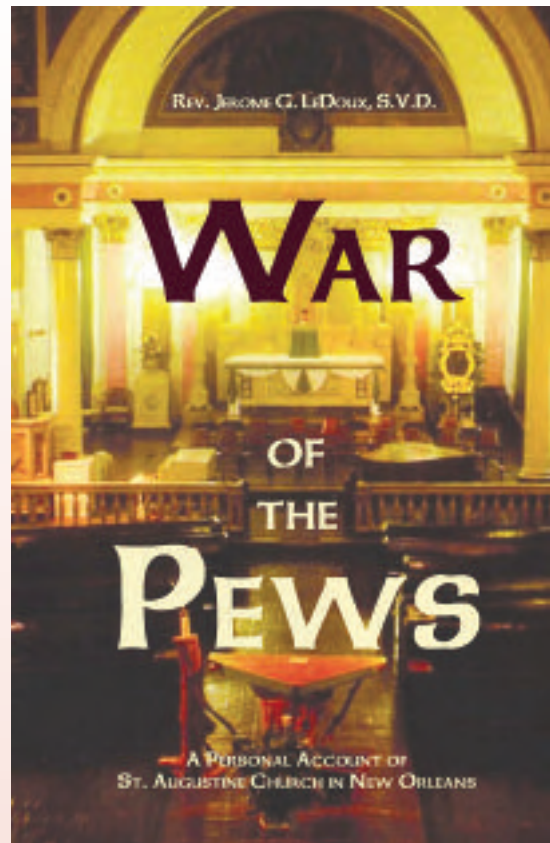
The USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign is pleased to announce our **Pray for the DREAM** weekend and we encourage all interested parties to participate. Between September 18th and October 9th scores of dioceses, parishes and other faith groups will be planning events and/or incorporating petitions, homilies, and prayers into the Sunday Masses in support of our DREAM Act eligible students and youth.

We plan to lift up the human face of suffering from an otherwise political issue through personal stories and testimonies, while also sharing many of the ways that Catholic Social Teaching calls us to support our innocent immigrant youth who want nothing more than a chance to succeed in this world and reach their God-given potential.

**The JFI Campaign is looking to coordinate events and Masses in support of immigrant youth with a special focus on Sunday, September 25th**, although other Sundays may be chosen as well. We hope that your Congregation will assist us in this endeavor. The goal is to continue the call for the DREAM Act while also urging President Obama to protect vulnerable populations including DREAM Act eligible youth and parents of citizen children from unwarranted detention and deportation.

Please go to [www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parishes.shtml](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/parishes.shtml) to find sample "Pray for the DREAM" resources that can be used to support your events. If you plan to participate in **Pray for the DREAM**, please complete the form at: [www.justiceforimmigrants.org/documents/Pray-for-the-DREAM-participation-form.pdf](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/documents/Pray-for-the-DREAM-participation-form.pdf)

For questions or additional support, please contact Jaci Braga at [jbraga@usccb.org](mailto:jbraga@usccb.org) or Tony Cube at [acube@usccb.org](mailto:acube@usccb.org).



***The War of the Pews: A Personal Account of St. Augustine Church in New Orleans*** by Rev. Jerome G. LeDoux, S.V.D. is now available from Margaret Media. The 424 page book tells the story of St. Augustine Church in New Orleans, Louisiana. St. Augustine Catholic Church has stood in the Tremé section of New Orleans for over 170 years. Its international fame and role as a musical and cultural center as well as a spiritual focus has made it a national treasure.

Father Ledoux expertly goes back into the church's history from its founding in 1841 through the Civil War, segregation, Civil Rights and ultimately Hurricane Katrina to show how its predominantly African-American population weathered each of four Battles in the War of the Pews.

**In the spring of 2006 the archdiocese of New Orleans declared St. Augustine Church closed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. But the parishioners, faced off with the archbishop, forcing an unprecedented mediation to keep the church's doors open and its future secure.**

Dr. Ina Johan Fandrich, author and historical researcher says: "LeDoux's gripping description of events offers a unique window into the rich cultural complexity of the city with rare historical depth".

Order on line at [www.margaretmedia.com](http://www.margaretmedia.com)

**Divine Word Missionaries** is an international missionary community of over 6,000 brothers and priests. In 1905 the SVDs began working among African Americans in the Southern United States. Today, Divine Word Missionaries work in over 35 parishes in Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas.

**IN A WORD** is a publication of The Society of the Divine Word's Media Production Center. Rev. James Pawlicki, S.V.D., Director and Editor; Cathy Green-Miner, office manager.

Correspondence to Media Production Center, 199 Seminary Drive, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520, 228-467-1097, Cell phone 504-908-6343. Electronic messages to our Internet address, [editor@inaword.com](mailto:editor@inaword.com).

**IN A WORD** is not published during July and August.

Web page can be found at <http://www.inaword.com>