



DIOCESE OF BROWNSVILLE

Office of Liturgy and Worship

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, All Deacons, All Parishes
Cc: Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, STD
From: Luis Espinoza 
Re: **Ars celebrandi** and **Actuosa participatio**
Date: Monday, July 25, 2016; *Feast of Saint James, Apostle*

In the course of the Synod, there was frequent insistence on the need to avoid any antithesis between the *ars celebrandi*, the art of proper celebration, and the full, active and fruitful participation of all the faithful. The primary way to foster the participation of the People of God in the sacred rite is the proper celebration of the rite itself. The *ars celebrandi* is the best way to ensure their *actuosa participatio*. The *ars celebrandi* is the fruit of faithful adherence to the liturgical norms in all their richness; indeed, for two thousand years this way of celebrating has sustained the faith life of all believers, called to take part in the celebration as the People of God, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (cf. 1 Pet 2:4-5, 9).

– Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, no. 38

The Committee on Divine Worship from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us that the *ars celebrandi* involves:

1. Fidelity to the texts and rubrics of the Church
2. Prayerful understanding of the liturgical texts, feasts and seasons
3. Reverent sense of the ministers and assembly engaging in an exchange, which is the dialogue of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit
4. Proper preparation for celebrating the liturgy

Keeping this in mind, we have begun this great task of reminding our faithful of the importance to read the liturgical documents and texts that contain the liturgical norms when we celebrate Liturgy. We can find in most of the liturgical books both an **Instruction** and a set of **Rubrics** that help everyone take part in the full, active and fruitful participation.

I encourage all liturgical ministers to read or re-read the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* as well as the *Order of Readings for Mass* in order to be acquainted with some of the great riches of the Church.

The **Office of Liturgy and Worship** is happy to be of assistance to parishes and to answer any questions related to the Sacred Liturgy.
