

Paul Turner

A Long Look at the Lectionary for Mass

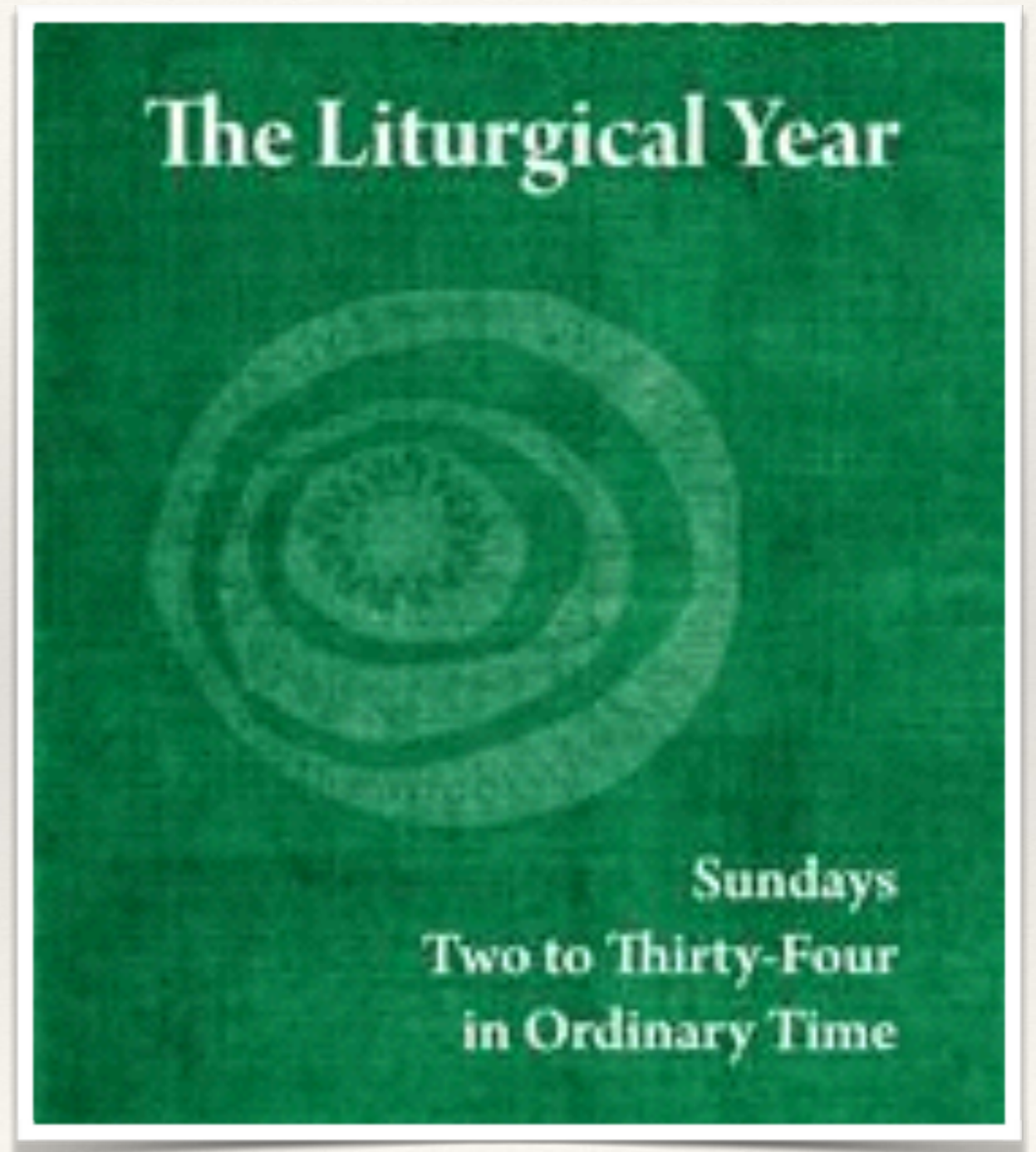
Diocese of Sandhurst
18 August 2014

Overview

- ❖ The organization of the readings
- ❖ Samples of responsorial psalms
- ❖ Rubrics pertaining to the lectionary
- ❖ Other uses - and overuses?
- ❖ Bibliography

The organization of the readings

- ❖ [See Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass 92-110]
- ❖ Adrien Nocent, *The Liturgical Year*, 3 vols., Introduced, Emended, and Annotated by Paul Turner (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2013-2014)



Ordinary Time Sunday Gospels

- ❖ Week 3 begins a semicontinuous reading from Matthew, Mark or Luke, starting with public ministry and ending with sayings about the second coming
 - ❖ Year C includes the intro to Luke on Week 3
- ❖ Week 2: manifestation of the Lord at Cana (C), other passages from John's gospel
- ❖ Year B after the 16th Sunday come five from John 6

Ordinary Time Sunday 1st Readings

- ❖ Chosen to correspond with Gospel and show unity between Old and New Testaments
- ❖ Principal passages from the Old Testament are represented on Sundays



Ordinary Time Sunday 2nd Readings

- ❖ Semicontinuous readings from letters of Paul and James
 - ❖ [they do not necessarily fit the other readings]
- ❖ 1st Corinthians is spread over 3 years at beginning of Ordinary Time
- ❖ Hebrews divided into years B and C
- ❖ In general these readings are “short and readily grasped”

Ordinary Time Weekday Gospels

- ❖ Mark weeks 1-9, Matthew 10-21, Luke 22-34
- ❖ all of Mark 1-12 except for two places in 6 read around the Epiphany
- ❖ miracle of the loaves & Jesus walking on the water



Ordinary Time Weekday Gospels

- ❖ Passages from Matthew and Luke with material not in Mark
- ❖ but those presented distinctively or needed for progression appear more than once
- ❖ Jesus' entire final discourse from Luke concludes year



Ordinary Time Weekday 1st Reading

- ❖ Readings alternate each Testament every few weeks
- ❖ Large sections of NT books give the substance of the letters
- ❖ Old Testament historical books give a history of salvation
 - ❖ A wisdom passage may give a prologue or conclusion
- ❖ Daniel and Revelation come at the end of the year
- ❖ Omitted: Obadiah, Zephaniah, Song of Songs, Esther, Judith

Advent Sundays

- ❖ Gospels: Lord's coming at the end of time (1st Sunday), John the Baptist (2nd and 3rd), events preparing for the Lord's birth (4th)
- ❖ OT readings are prophecies about the Messiah, especially from Isaiah
- ❖ 2nd readings are exhortations and proclamations in keeping with the season



Advent Weekdays

- ❖ Starts with a semicontinuous reading of Isaiah - The Gospel is chosen with the first reading in mind
- ❖ From Thursday of the second week the Gospels concern John the Baptist - the first reading either continues Isaiah or is inspired by the Gospel
- ❖ From December 17 the Gospels are events leading to the birth of Christ from Matthew and Luke - The first reading is a prophecy chosen in light of the day's gospel

Christmas Solemnities & Feasts

- ❖ Readings of 4 Christmas masses are from the tradition
- ❖ Holy Family about childhood of Jesus and family life
- ❖ Mary, Mother of God - about Mary and the Holy Name
- ❖ Epiphany first reading and gospel are from the tradition, the second reading is about calling nations to salvation
- ❖ Baptism of the Lord - readings concern this mystery

Christmas Weekdays

- ❖ The First Letter of John in its entirety
- ❖ The Gospels relate manifestations of the Lord
 - ❖ December 29-30 childhood of Jesus from Luke
 - ❖ Dec 31 - Jan 5 passages from John 1
 - ❖ January 7-12 manifestations of the Lord from the four Gospels

Lent Sunday Gospels

- ❖ 1st and 2nd Sundays: Temptation and Transfiguration
- ❖ 3rd, 4th and 5th Year A: Samaritan woman, Man born blind, Raising of Lazarus
- ❖ Year B: John on the glorification of Christ through Cross and Resurrection (Temple, Nicodemus, wheat)
- ❖ Year C: Luke / John on conversion (Fig tree, Prodigal Son, adulterous woman)



Lent Sunday Readings

- ❖ OT History of Salvation - proper to the catechesis of Lent
- ❖ 2nd readings provide a connection with others when possible

Lent Sunday Readings - Year A

Gen: creation, sin

Rom: sin v grace

Matt: Temptation

Gen: call of Abraham

2 Tim: appearance of
Christ

Matt: Transfiguration

Ex: thirst in the desert

Rom: God's love poured

Jn: Woman at well

1 Sam: David as king

Eph: Christ will give light

Jn: Man born blind

Ez: opening graves

Rom The One who raised
Christ will give you life

Jn: Lazarus

Lent Sunday Readings - Year B

Gen: Noah

1 Pet: Flood prefigures
baptism

Mark: Temptation

Gen: sacrifice of Abraham

Rom: God did not spare
his only Son

Mark: Transfiguration

Ex: Commandments

1 Cor: proclaim Christ
crucified, wisdom of God

Jn: cleansing Temple

2 Chron: exile and
liberation

Eph: dead in
transgressions, saved by
grace

Jn: Nicodemus - God sent
the Son to save the world

Jer: new covenant

Heb: the Son suffered

Jn: grain of wheat

Lent Sunday Readings - Year C

Deut: confession of faith

Rom: confess and believe

Lk: Temptation

Gen: covenant with
Abraham

Phil: changing our bodies

Lk: Transfiguration

Ex: burning bush

1 Cor: rock was Christ

Jn: fig tree

Joshua: the Promised
Land

2 Cor: be reconciled to
God

Jn: Prodigal Son

Is: God brings life to
desert

Phil: what lies ahead

Jn: Adulterous woman

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

- ❖ Gospel on Lord's Solemn Entry (Year B option of John)
- ❖ Passion from the synoptics
- ❖ 1st reading: Song of Suffering Servant
- ❖ 2nd reading: Philippians



Lent Weekdays

- ❖ Gospels and Old Testament readings are related to each other, usually concerning Lent disciplines
- ❖ Fourth Week begins semicontinuous reading of John
- ❖ The Samaritan woman, man born blind and raising of Lazarus may be read on weekdays during weeks 3, 4 and 5
- ❖ First days of Holy Week concern the Passion

Sacred Triduum

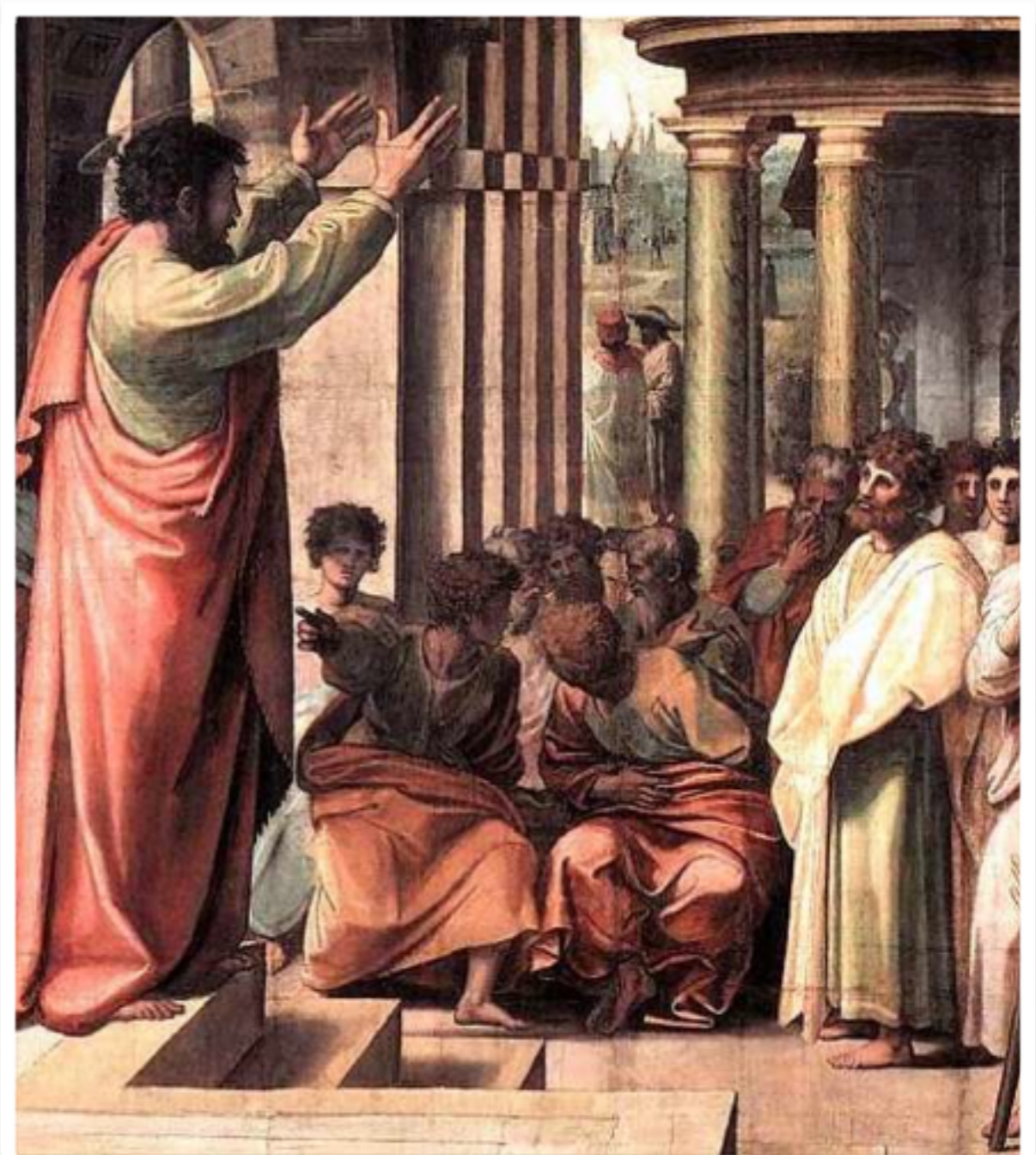
- ❖ Holy Thursday: first passover meal, Paul's account of Last Supper and John's washing of the feet
- ❖ Good Friday: Passion of John, servant of Isaiah, high priest
- ❖ Vigil: salvation history, Paul on baptism, and the gospel of the resurrection
- ❖ Easter: Acts; Paul on the paschal mystery; John's empty tomb, or Vigil or Emmaus

Sundays of Easter Time

- ❖ Gospels on Sundays 1-3: appearances of the risen Christ
 - ❖ 4: Good Shepherd
 - ❖ 5-7: the Lord's discourse and prayer at the Last Supper
- ❖ First readings from Acts of the Apostles
- ❖ A: 1 Peter, B: 1 John, C: Revelation
- ❖ Ascension and Pentecost - readings pertaining to the day

Easter Weekdays

- ❖ 1st reading is semicontinuous from Acts of the Apostles
- ❖ Gospels of Octave are appearances of the risen Lord
- ❖ then a semicontinuous reading of John, largely the final discourse and prayer



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 67 (66):2-3, 4, 5, 7

(4) O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God show kindness and bless us, and make his face shine on us. Then the earth will acknowledge your ways, and all nations your power to save.

Let the nations rejoice and sing for joy, for you judge the world with justice, you judge the peoples with fairness, you guide the nations on earth.

Let the nations praise you, God, let all the nations praise you. May God continue to bless us, and be revered by the whole wide world.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 138 (137):1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

(8bc) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, for you have listened to the cry I uttered. In the presence of angels I sing to you, I bow down before your holy Temple.

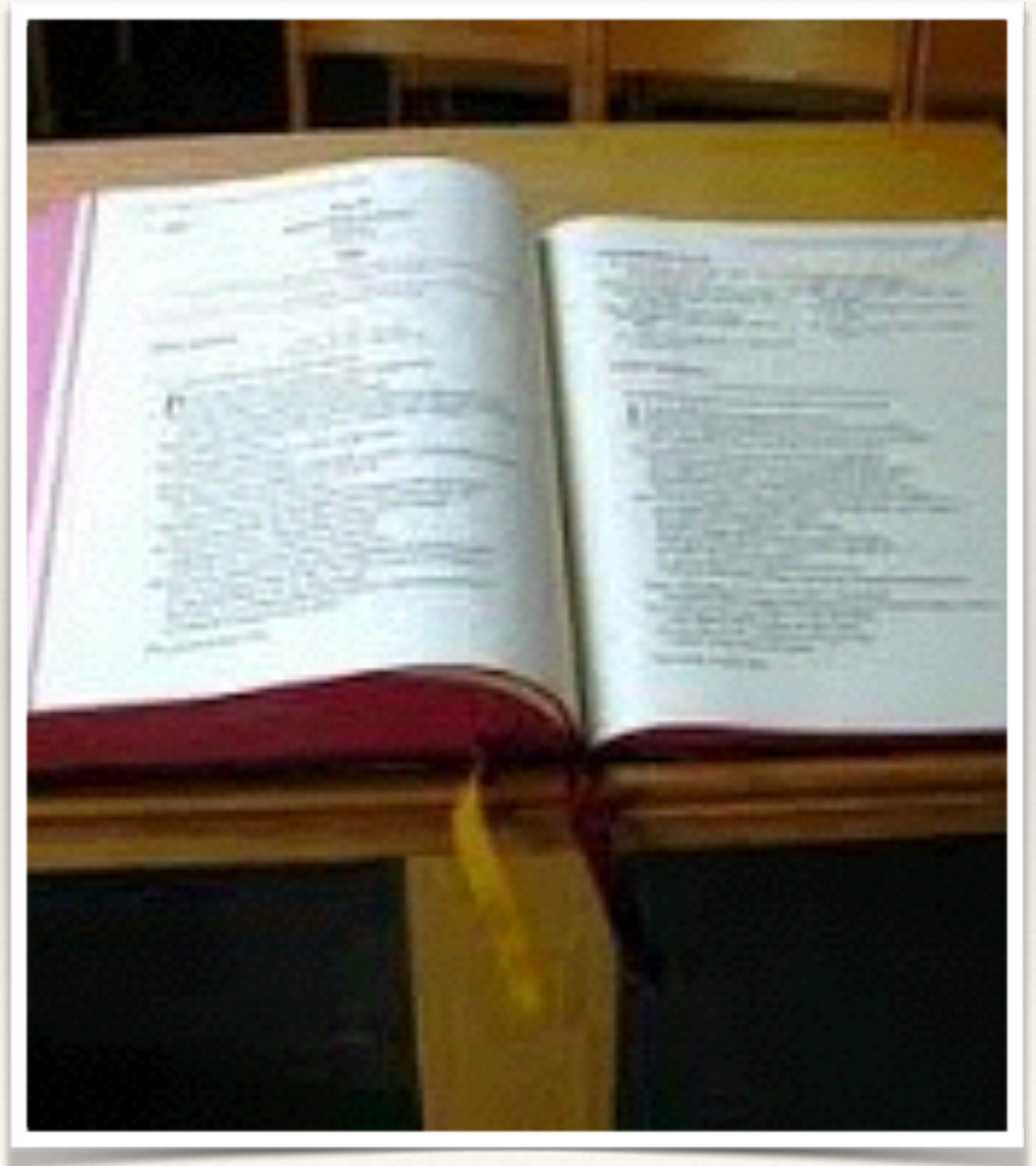
I praise your name for your faithful love and your constancy; your promises surpass even your fame. You heard me on the day I called, and you gave new strength to my heart.

Sublime as he is, the Lord looks on the humble, the proud he picked out from afar. Lord, your faithful love endures for ever, do not abandon what you have made.

SIT OR KNEEL

The book itself

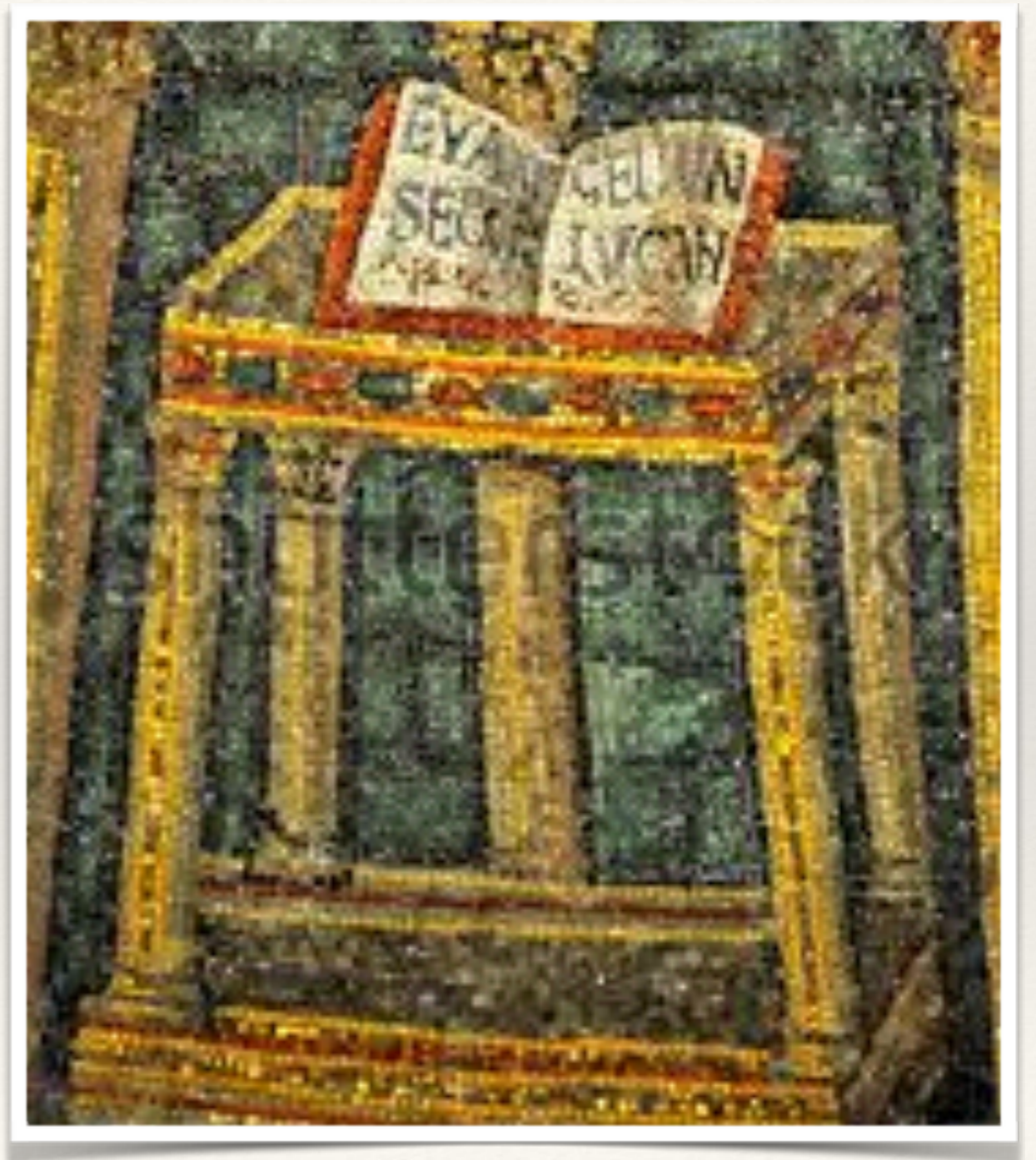
- ❖ Part of the Roman Missal, but contents are unique
- ❖ Storing the lectionary and the Book of the Gospels
- ❖ LM 37: in the celebration, the books should not be replaced by other pastoral aids



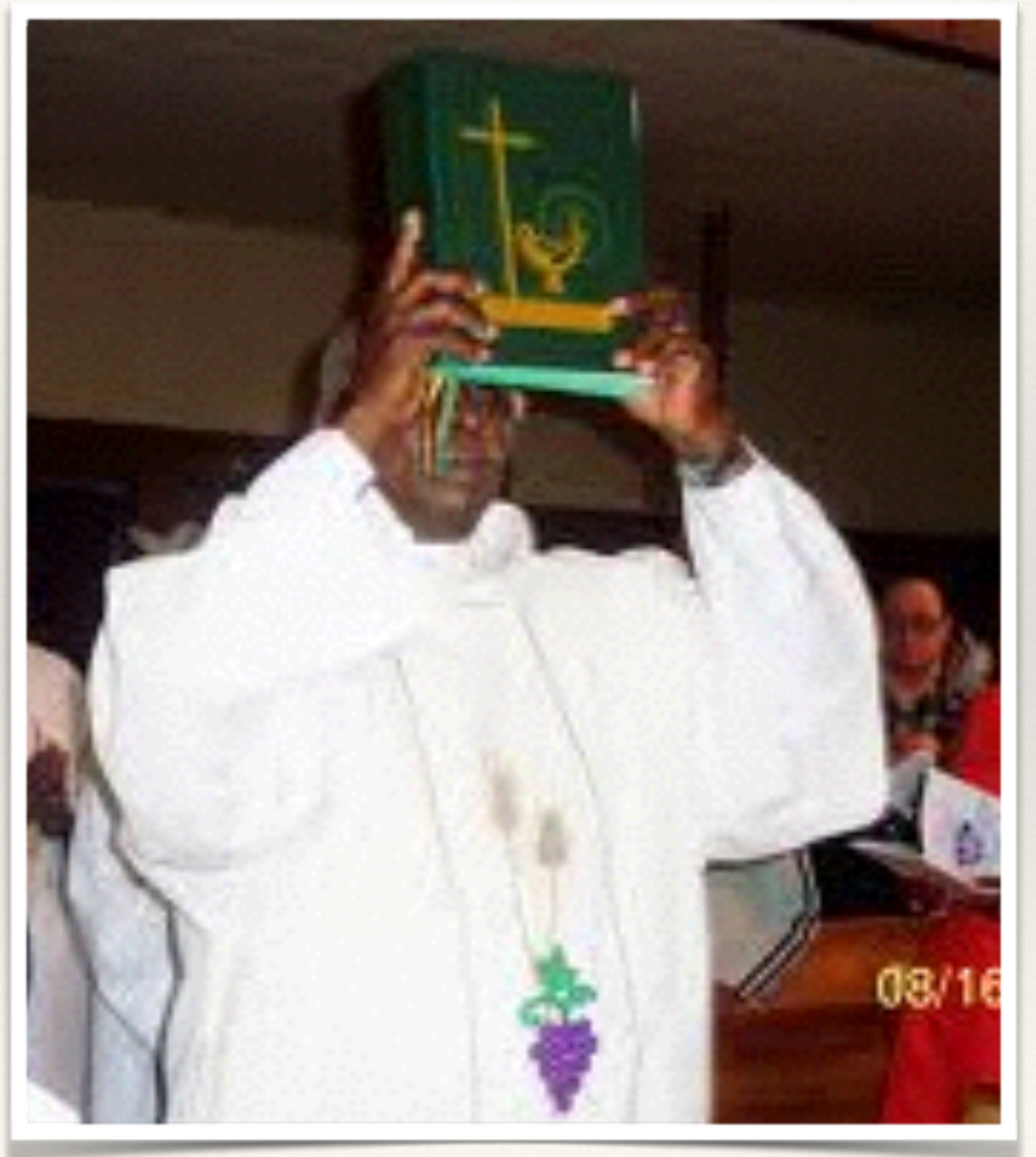
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- ❖ GIRM 118b, 128: place lectionary in ambo before mass
 - ❖ 117, 120d: place Book of the Gospels on altar or carry it in procession



- ❖ 120d: If no deacon, a reader carries the Book of the Gospels slightly elevated and sets it on the altar
 - ❖ unites the liturgy of the word and of the eucharist
 - ❖ the only objects kissed
 - ❖ getting fed two ways
- ❖ 194: the reader wears “approved attire” (339: “lay ministers may wear the alb or other suitable vesture that is lawfully approved by the Conference of Bishops.”)



- ❖ 172: a deacon walks next to the priest or in front of him, carrying the Book of the Gospels
- ❖ 173, 195: the one carrying the Book of the Gospels makes no reverence to the altar and places the book on it



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- ❖ CB 72 a reader going to the ambo bows to the altar if entering sanctuary or crossing it
 - ❖ observing silence after the reading



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- ❖ singing the chants before and after readings
 - ❖ the psalm should be sung from the ambo (GIRM 309, LM 22) or another suitable place (GIRM 61)
 - ❖ The Sequence on Easter and Pentecost, optional on Corpus Christi and Sorrowful Mother



- ❖ GIRM 133, 175, ministers with thurible and lighted candles may lead procession from altar to ambo; LM 17 ministers may carry “other symbols of reverence that may be customary”
- ❖ GIRM 133 everyone turns toward the ambo for the gospel



- ❖ OM 15, GIRM 134, 175, LM 17 the priest or deacon traces the cross on the Book of the Gospels and then on his forehead, mouth and breast, the people do the same
- ❖ OM 15, GIRM 134, 175 the minister may incense the book before reading and kiss it after
- ❖ GIRM 175 the Book of the Gospels may be moved to the credence table or some other dignified place

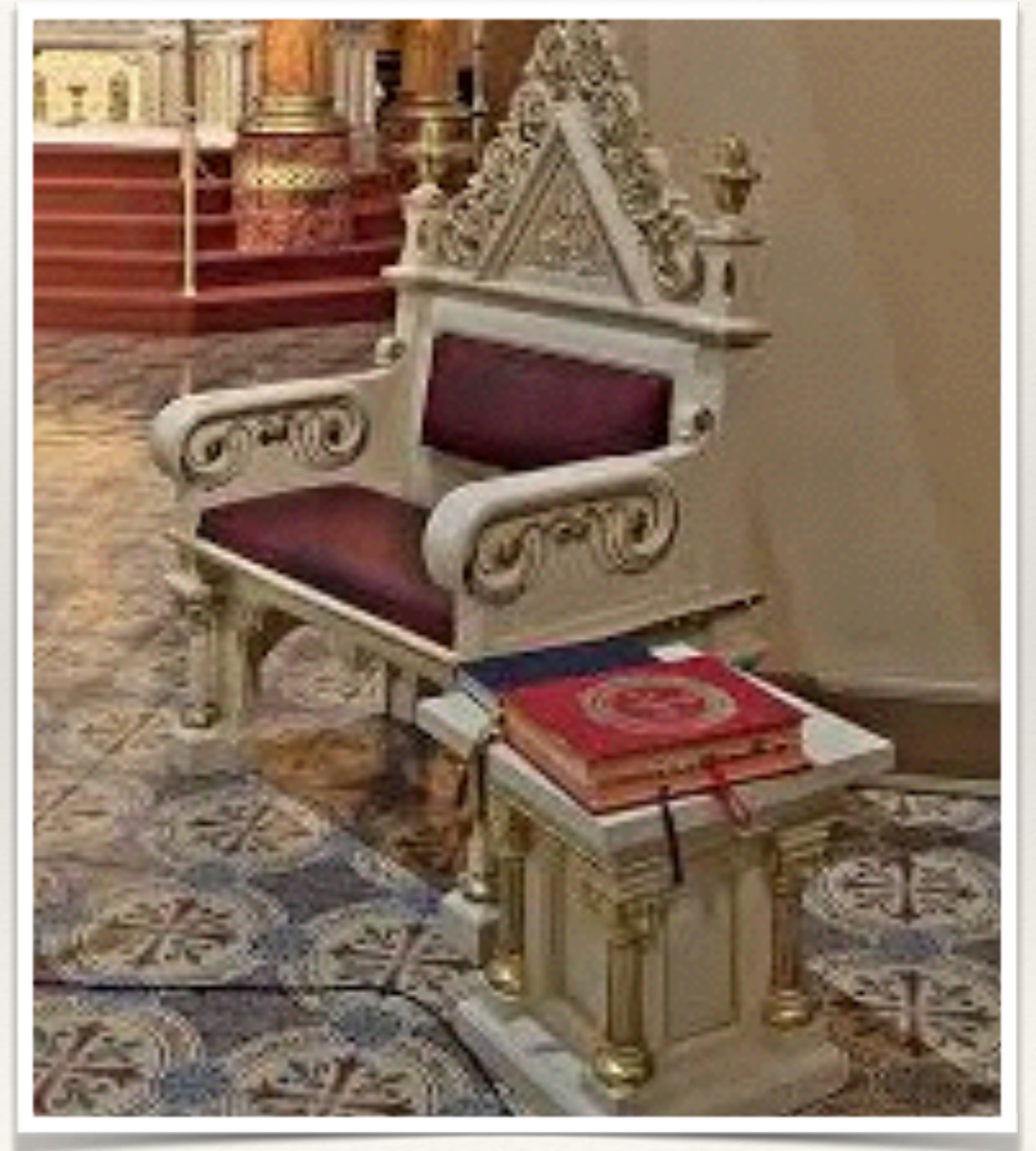


Other uses of the lectionary

- ❖ **Homily:** “Through the course of the liturgical year the homily sets forth the mysteries of faith and the standards of the Christian life on the basis of the sacred text” (LM 24).
- ❖ GIRM 65: or another text from the ordinary or proper of the mass of the day

Universal Prayer - LM43

- ❖ The priest's introduction and concluding prayer may draw on scriptures of the day and the homily



Lectionary catechesis

- ❖ **RCIA 75/1**: “A suitable catechesis is provided by priests or deacons, or by catechists and others of the faithful, planned to be gradual and complete in its coverage, accommodated to the liturgical year, and solidly supported by celebrations of the word.”

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, who have prepared
for those who love you

good things which no eye
can see,

fill our hearts, we pray, with
the warmth of your love,

so that, loving you in all
things and above all things,

we may attain your
promises,

which surpass every human
desire.

Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son....

[Gelasian Sacramentary, then
5th Sunday after Pentecost]

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, who cause the minds
of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what
you command
and to desire what you
promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of
this world,

our hearts may be fixed on that
place

where true gladness is found.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son.....

[Gelasian Sacramentary, new
to the post-Vatican II missal]

20th Sunday - ICEL Year A

God of the nations,
to your table all are invited
and in your family no one
is a stranger.

Satisfy the hunger
of those gathered in this
house of prayer,

and mercifully extend to all
the peoples on earth

the joy of salvation and
faith.

Grant this through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son....

21st Sunday - ICEL Year A

Living God,
you sent your Son among
us
to reveal your wisdom
and make known your
ways.

Increase our faith,

that we may confess Jesus
as your Son,
take up his work on earth,
and trust his promise to
sustain the church.

We ask this through....

20th Sunday Antiphons

- ❖ **Entrance:** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
 - ❖ [Ps 84 (83): 10-11]
- ❖ **Communion:** With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.
 - ❖ [Ps 130 (129): 7]
 - ❖ **Or:** I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.
 - ❖ [Jn 6: 51-52]

21st Sunday Antiphons

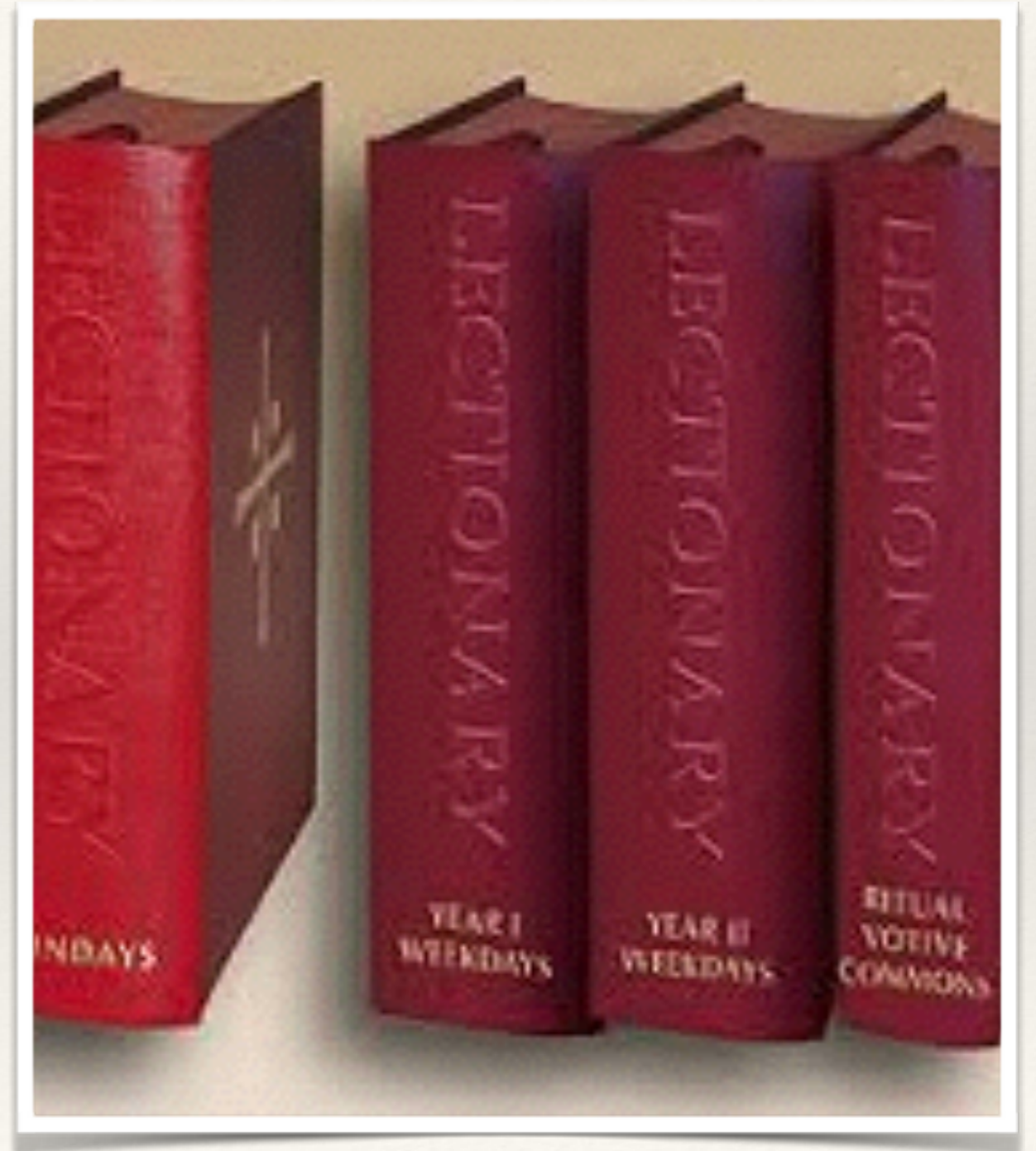
- ❖ **Entrance:** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O God, for I cry to you all the day long.
 - ❖ [see Ps 86 (85): 1-3]
- ❖ **Communion:** The earth is replete with the fruit of your works, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.
 - ❖ [see Ps 104 (103): 13-15]
 - ❖ **Or:** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.
 - ❖ [see Jn 6:54]

Concluding points

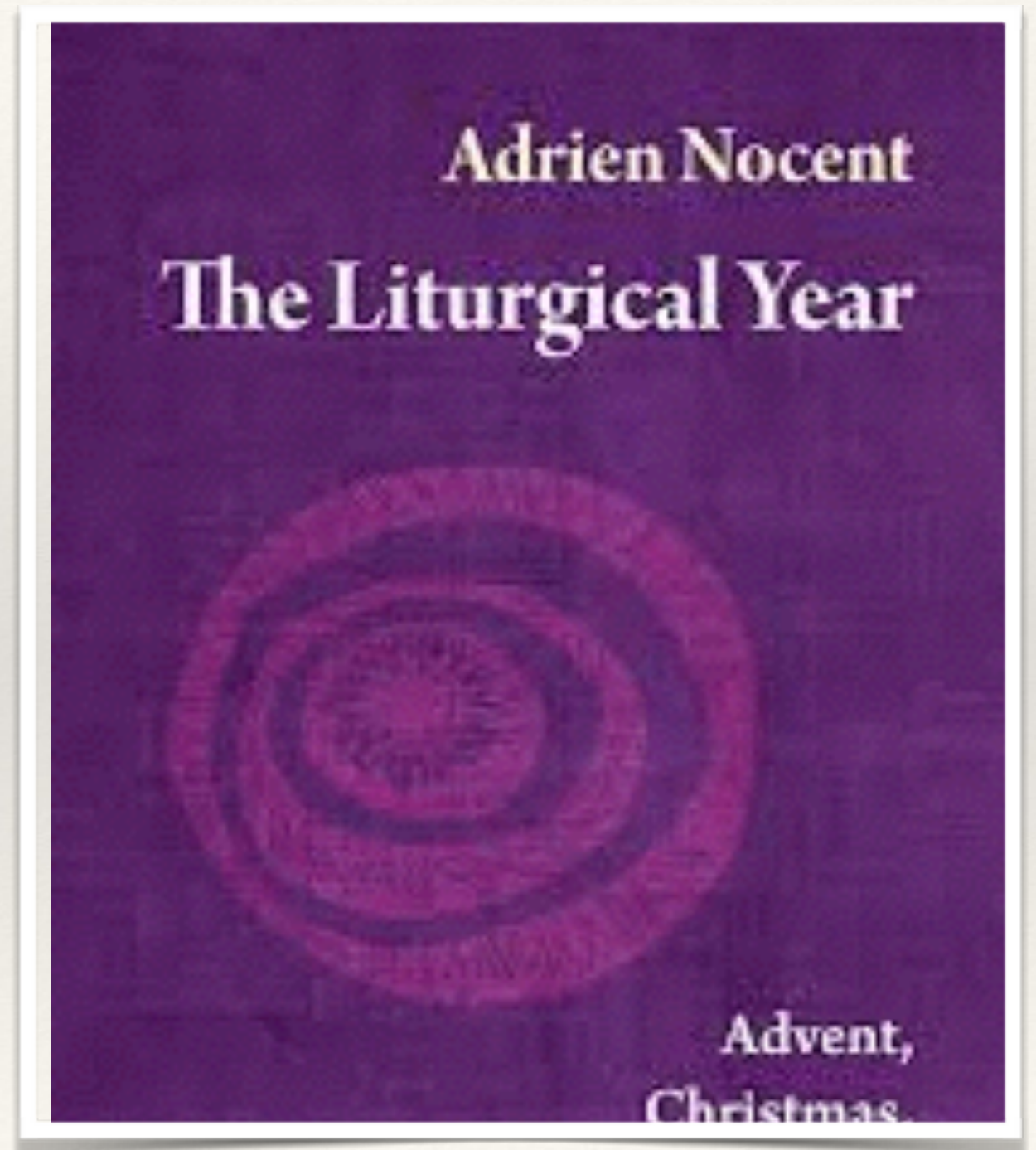
- ❖ The Lectionary for Mass is one of the most successful liturgical forms of the Second Vatican Council
- ❖ Knowing the context helps one make a liturgical reading, not just a biblical reading
- ❖ Other liturgical sources also have value

Bibliography

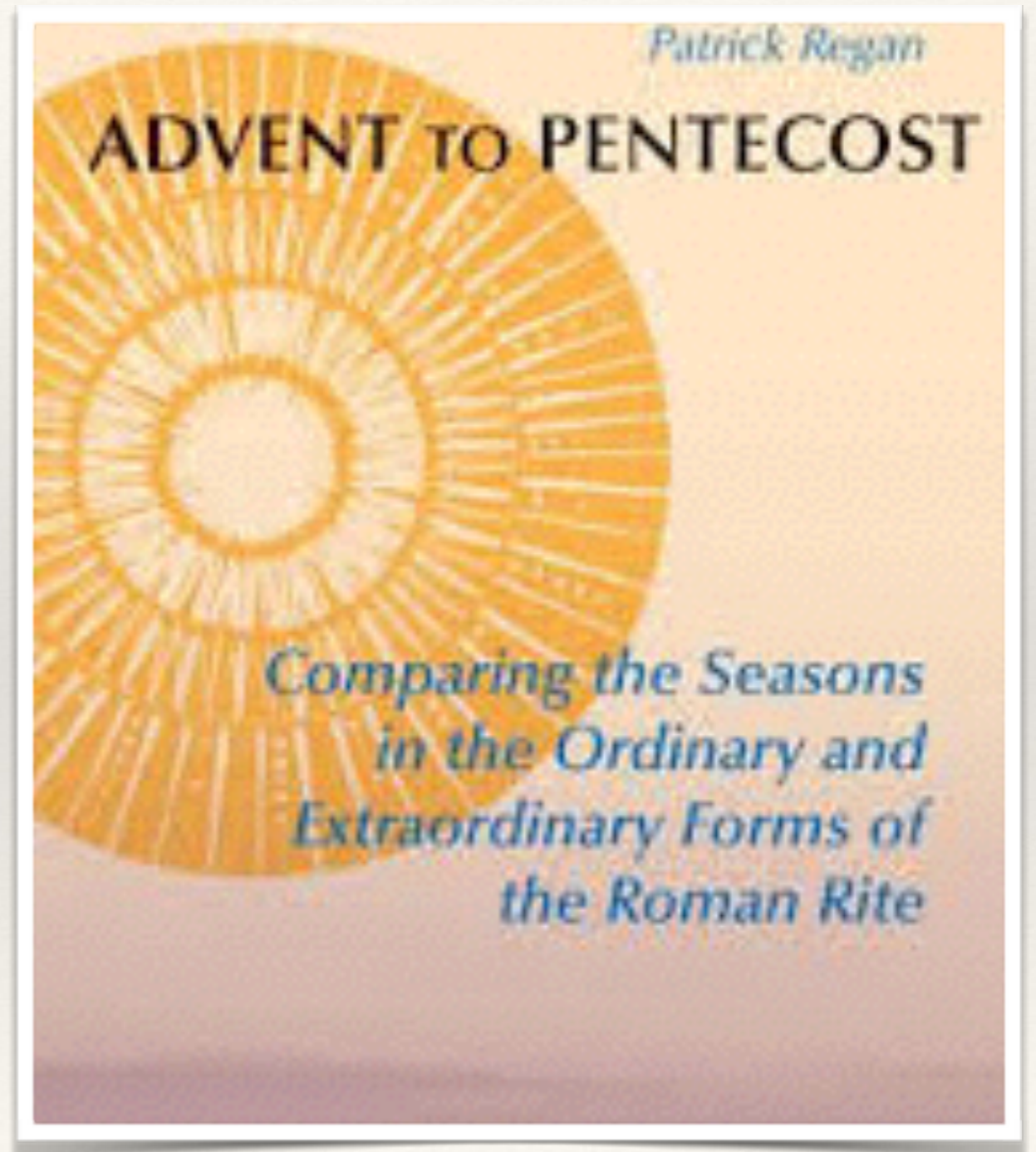
- ❖ Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass



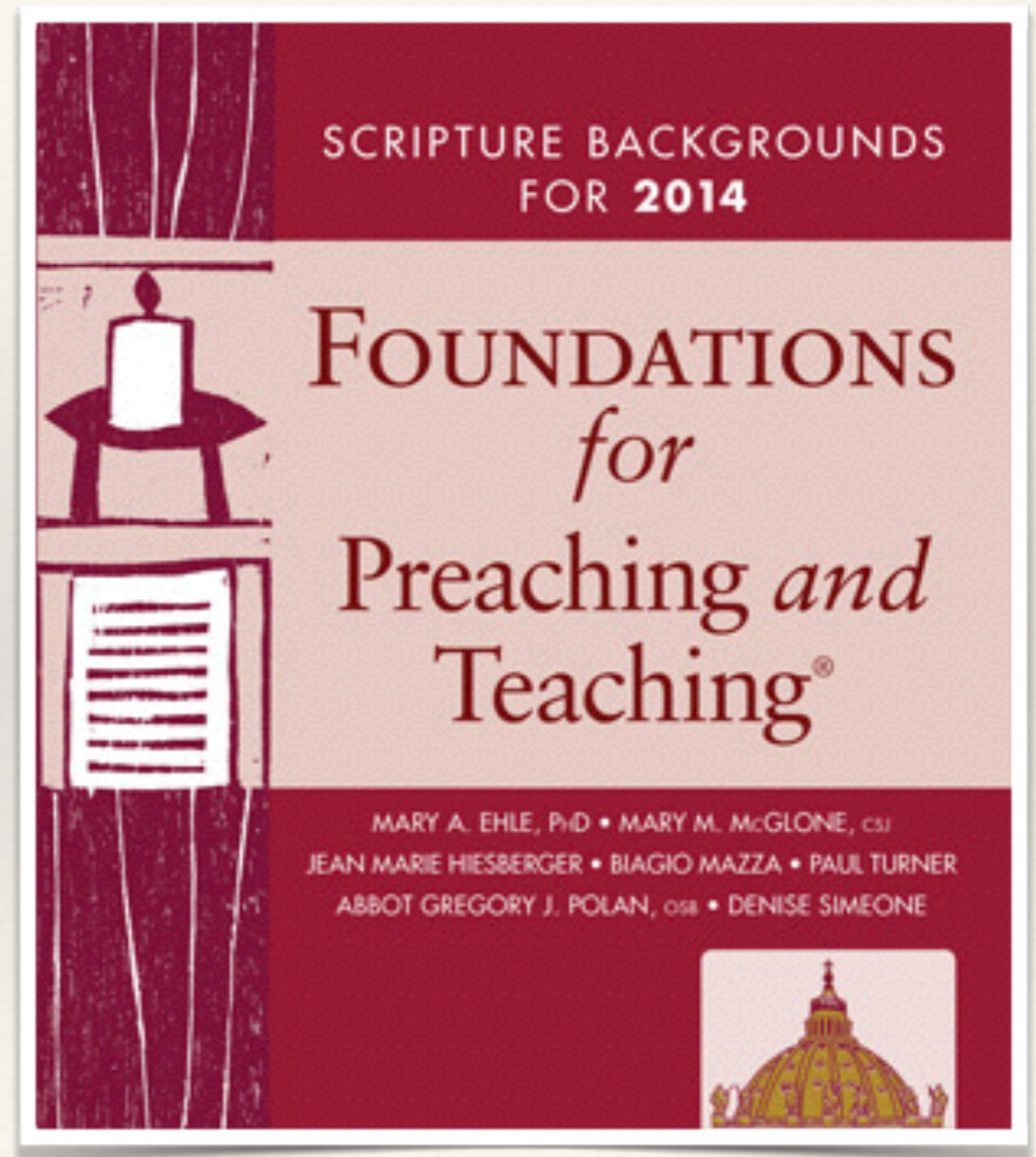
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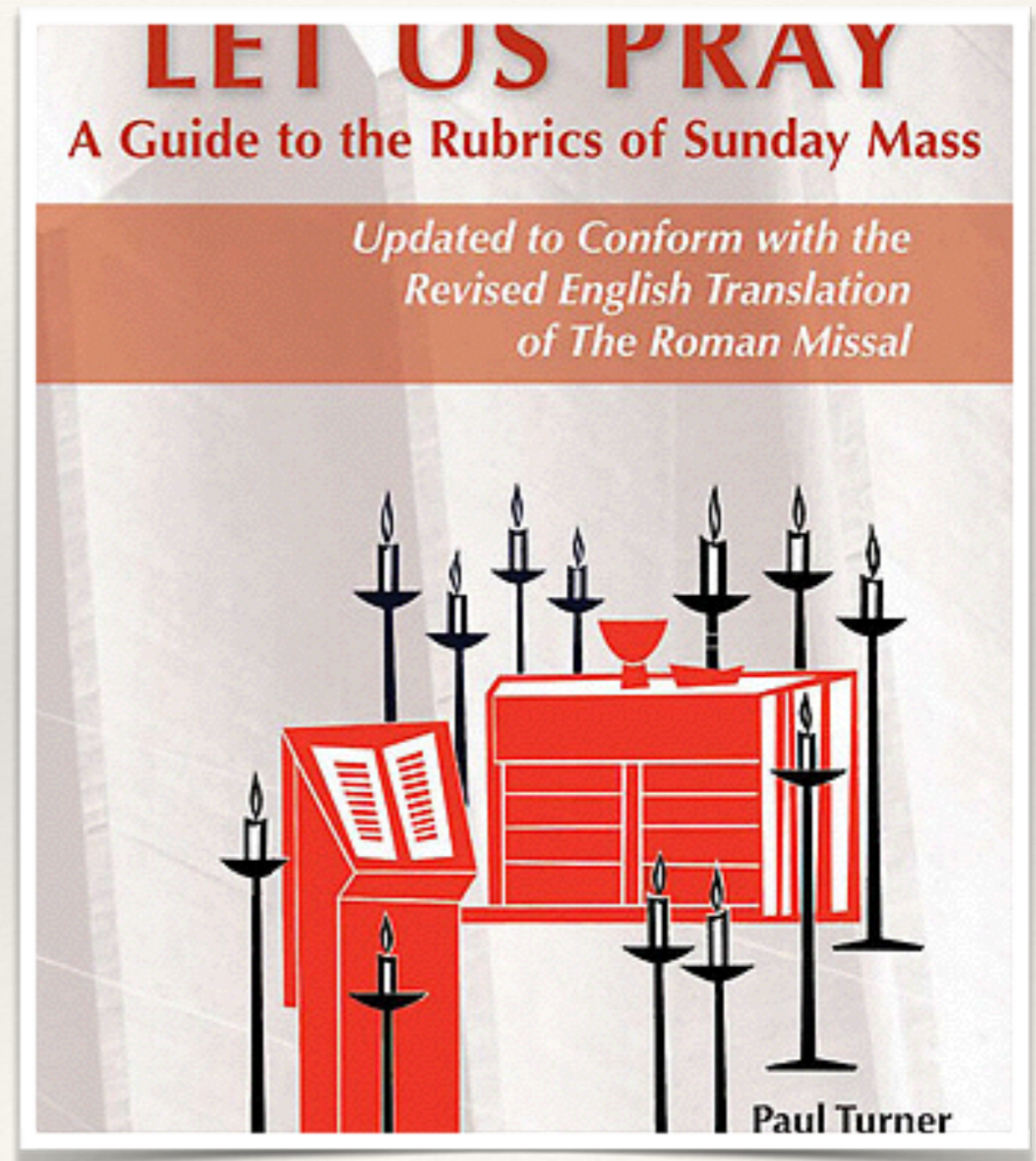
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