

*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.*

LUKE 2: 46-47a



# POPULAR DEVOTIONS AND SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. PARISH DEVOTION PRACTICE



# POPULAR DEVOTIONS AND SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

## I. INTRODUCTION

Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly endorsed, provided they are in accord with the laws and norms of the Church. But these devotions should be so fashioned that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it, and lead the people to do it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses any of them (SC, 13).

In fact, the Liturgy of Hours calls forth the various devotions of the People of God. It is for this reason, that popular devotions and spiritual exercises will best be experienced in parishes that regularly celebrate the Liturgy of Hours. Devotional practices play a crucial role in helping to foster a sense of ceaseless prayer of the universal Church. Examples include: pilgrimages, novenas, processions, celebrations in honor of Mary and other saints, the rosary, the Angelus, the stations of the Cross, the veneration of relics, and the use of sacramentals. When properly used, “these expressions of piety extend the liturgical life of the Church, but do not replace it.” (CCC, 1675)

## II. PARISH DEVOTIONAL PRACTICE

**DV 1. Pastors and parish staff should take special care and sensitivity to properly integrate popular devotions and spiritual exercises into the life of the parish with strong emphasis on cultural practices of the ethnic groups represented in the Archdiocese and the local parish.**

Pastors will find assistance in the practical application of this policy by consulting *Popular Devotional Practices: Basic Questions and Answers* issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 12, 2003.