

# REMOVING HOLY WATER FROM THE FONTS DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

The following information is concerning the question on whether it is proper to have holy water receptacles empty for the Season of Lent.

The practice of the Church has been to empty the holy water fonts on the days of the Sacred Triduum in preparation of the blessing of the water at the Easter Vigil, and it corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**The removal of holy water from the fonts during the season of Lent is not permitted,** (3/14/03: Prot. N. 569/00/L) in particular, for two reasons:

- 1) The liturgical legislation in force does not see this innovation, which in addition to being *praeter legem* is contrary to a balanced understanding of Lent. "Lent is marked by two themes, the baptismal and the penitential." (CSL, 109)
- 2) The encouragement of the Church that the faithful avail themselves frequently of the sacraments is to be understood to apply also to the season of Lent. The fast and abstinence that the faithful embrace in this season does not extend to abstaining from the sacraments or sacramentals of the Church. "By recalling or preparing for baptism and by repentance, this season disposes the faithful, as they more diligently listen to the word of God and devote themselves to prayer, to celebrate the paschal mystery. The baptismal and penitential aspects of Lent are to be given greater prominence in both the liturgy and liturgical catechesis." (CSL, 109)

