

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship  
P.O. Box 2028  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028  
Phone: 225-242-0120  
Fax: 225-336-8731  
E-Mail: [tranzino@diobr.org](mailto:tranzino@diobr.org)

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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

**Sunday date:** June 14-15, 2008

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### **An Overview...**

The Scriptural Word this weekend reflects the invitation from God to both Israel and the Apostles to a “chosen” status. Being chosen brings with it both a new place in the relationship with God and new responsibilities.

The reading from Exodus occurs before the covenant from Mount Sinai when Israel is held dearer than any other nation. As a result, Israel is to become a kingdom of priests, a nation of holiness. In Matthew’s Gospel, the summons of Jesus to the apostles is give for them to proclaim the coming reign of God. They are to go forth and not keep this “good news” to themselves. Go make disciples of *all nations*, says the Lord.

### **Faith Sharing Questions...**

1. When you think about the ones who “labor for the harvest” do you think about yourself? Why or why not?
2. Who are the sheep without a shepherd in your life?
3. What does the Gospel reading say to the Church in today’s world?

### **Some Considerations As You Prepare...**

1. This is Father's Day weekend. Do not focus the liturgy on this observance; rather keep the Sunday in focus utilizing the *Lectionary* and the Propers of the *Missal*.
2. However, you may want to offer a special Father's Day blessing taken from the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 56: a "Prayer Over the People" can be used at the end of Mass on Father's Day.
3. An appropriate Penitential Rite could be found in the *Sacramentary*, C-ii or C-v.
4. The Alternative Opening Prayer is the more recommended, as it reflects the major theme from the Scriptural Word.
5. Preface I or VIII for Sundays of Ordinary Time are recommended, as both speak of the vocation of the Church as the Body of Christ.
6. Prayer over the People nos. 9 or 23, or the Blessing for Ordinary Time III, are recommended.

### **Looking Ahead...**

1. The Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist is Tuesday, June 24. Note the special mandatory Proper Prayers for this Solemnity and for its Vigil: evening Masses on June 23 would use these texts.
2. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) occurs this year on Sunday. This might be an occasion to invite parishioners to bring crosses and crucifixes from their homes to the church that weekend, for display and blessing. Another idea might be for the parish to give each parishioner family a cross for display or use in their homes, cars, or workplaces.

# **SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE 11TH ORDINAL SUNDAY**

*Priest:* As a faith community, we bring to the Lord our prayers of need:

*Deacon* (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church to be faithful to the summons of Christ to bring the Gospel to the entire world, we pray to the Lord...
2. For our country and all nations; may the reconciliation of God be pursued for the peace of the world, we pray to the Lord...
3. For the Gulf Coast region of the United States; for freedom from storms and the dangers of floods, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who suffer in this life; for those who are without employment; for those who are worried about bills and food and health, we pray to the Lord...
5. For our fathers and grandfathers; may God bless them in their love for us and heal any hurts that may exist among us, we pray to the Lord...
6. For all who have died, especially any of our fathers and grandfathers; may the dead rest in the peace of God, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence we offer to God our prayers of need...

*[pause, the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Eternal God, we praise you.  
Hear the prayer of your people  
and grant our needs.  
We pray through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.