

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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

Sunday date: July 26-27, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

As Matthew continues to recount Jesus' parables about the kingdom of heaven, this Sunday we hear about the importance of discovering the treasure of eternal life with God and having the wisdom we need to seek it out and obtain it. Central to the message of this Sunday's Gospel are the methods in which we can come to recognize the kingdom. The three parables taken together, the treasure in the field (discovery by chance), the pearl (a search for treasure), or the net of fish (discernment) demonstrate that we can discover God just about anywhere when we are open to finding Him. The key is to have the wisdom to recognize Him and then have the courage to "sell all we have" to obtain the treasure of eternal life. It means putting aside our worldly treasures, the money, the power, the status, to be in God's presence, where our lasting treasure lies.

In the first reading, Solomon gives us a model of how to pray and what to pray for. Given an opportunity to ask for anything he wants, he seeks an understanding heart that he may judge his people with wisdom and know what is right. It is our prayer also?

Reflection Questions...

1. Where and how have you found the presence of God in your life?
2. What do you treasure the most?
3. What are you willing to risk to share life with Christ?

Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. Either Opening Prayer fits today's readings since they ask that we make use of the gifts God has given us.
2. Penitential Rite Form C text option ii talks of Christ gathering us into His kingdom and bringing us salvation.
3. Preface VII for Sundays in Ordinary Time praises God for sending Jesus to us with His mission of forgiveness.

Upcoming...

1. Schools start in early August. You may wish to plan to do a blessing of students and teachers at Masses next weekend.
2. It is also important to make sure your schedules and plans for the Assumption holyday on August 14/15 and the following weekend of the 16/17 are finalized.

Suggested Intercessory Prayers for the 17th Ordinal Sunday

Priest: Let us pray that we may all find the treasure of true faith.

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

1. That our pope, bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and all who serve Christ may reflect God's values above those of the world...we pray to the Lord.
2. That our government leaders and all in a position to judge may have understanding hearts to make wise decisions, especially for peace and justice...we pray to the Lord.
3. That those among us who seek riches in the wrong places or who wander without purpose may find the joy of following Christ...we pray to the Lord.
4. That those who have riches on earth may generously share them with those in need...we pray to the Lord.
5. That those who have died [especially _____], may claim their treasure in God's kingdom...we pray to the Lord.
6. In silence, we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: God of wisdom, in you we have found the treasure that makes our lives worth living. Hear and answer the prayers that we place before you today. Give to each of us the wisdom to recognize you in our lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.
Amen.