

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

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: August 30-31, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

This Sunday's Gospel continues the story we began last week when Jesus turned His attention toward His mission in Jerusalem. Jesus begins to teach His disciples the difficult path of discipleship.

Just last week Jesus called Peter the rock upon which He would build His church. Even though Peter recognized Jesus as the Christ, the son of the Living God, his understanding of Jesus and his mission were incomplete. Peter is still thinking of a Messiah in worldly terms of a king or military leader. When Peter cannot accept the idea of Jesus suffering, Jesus chides him as an obstacle, because he is standing in the way of Jesus' mission of suffering and dying and then rising again on the third day. Jesus tells the disciples they must take up the cross and follow Him to gain life for themselves. The life gained is everlasting life. Jesus is clear about what the cross mean. It is the means of salvation and it is the symbol of dying to selfishness in order to follow Jesus. Discipleship requires sacrifice.

Reflection Questions...

1. What do I need to deny to myself so that I can follow Jesus?
2. Has my fear of suffering prevented me from making a full commitment to Jesus?
3. Do I live as if the word of God is burning in my heart?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. For the penitential rite, you may consider something like this:

Brothers and sisters, we call to mind those times we did not follow the Lord and we now seek His mercy:

Lord Jesus, your cross is our salvation, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, you come in the Father's glory, Christ have mercy

Lord Jesus, you bring everlasting life to all who follow you, Lord have mercy

2. Both Opening Prayers ask God to guide our hearts, mind and actions, so either would be appropriate for this Sunday.
3. Preface VI for Sundays in Ordinary Time would be the more appropriate for today.
4. Monday is Labor Day. It would be a good choice to offer a blessing for all who work – in and out of the home – this Sunday.

Suggested Prayer of the Faithful for the 22nd Ordinal Sunday

Priest: Let us pray for ourselves and our world that we may have the courage to take up Jesus' cross and follow Him.

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

1. For our Church...May we boldly proclaim the word of God burning in our hearts to all people in our world...we pray to the Lord.
2. For world leaders...May they strive to relieve the suffering of all who go hungry each day, of those who live with war, of those for whom violence is a way of life...we pray to the Lord.
3. For the poor, the lonely and the hopeless...May they find comfort in the Messiah whose suffering and death brings us eternal life...we pray to the Lord.
4. For those whose lives and property were damaged by Tropical Storm Fay and for continued protection from storms this hurricane season...we pray to the Lord.
5. For integrity and fairness among employees and employers...for all who are without a job, for those who have jobs that do not bring them fulfillment...we pray to the Lord.
6. For this assembly gathered here today...May we have the courage and strength to take up the cross of Jesus and follow Him as true disciples...we pray to the Lord.
7. For all who have died believing in the Christ...May they have eternal rest with Jesus...we pray to the Lord.
8. In silence we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

Priest: Almighty Father, we seek to do your will and to live as your disciples.

Give us the strength to follow you
so that all that we do may bring you glory and praise.

We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen.