

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: September 27-28, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Focusing on the Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

(from *Living Liturgy 2008*, Collegeville, MN, Liturgical Press)

To the point: This seemingly simple parable upends the world of the chief priests and elders. They thought they were models of holiness – now they must learn the “way of righteousness” from tax collectors and prostitutes. They thought they already had a foot in the kingdom; now they must stand in line behind notorious sinners who converted their lives. This is what conversion does, it upends our world and challenges us to change our minds, our hearts, and our lives and to do the Father’s will.

Connecting the Gospel to our experience: Change is difficult for everyone – house, job, schools, marital status, etc. Even more difficult is change of self – values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors. As difficult as change is, it defines Christian discipleship.

Questions for Sharing Faith...

1. In what ways am I resisting a turn toward God's will?
2. How in my life or ministry is God pushing me to say "yes," but I want to say "no?"
3. Who in my life has taught me the "way of righteousness?"

Some Other Considerations as you Prepare...

1. A suggested Penitential Rite, Form C

Priest: God invites us to believe and change our lives so that we may enter God's kingdom. Let us prepare to celebrate this liturgy by asking for the grace of conversion. . .

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you show sinners the way. Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you guide the humble to righteousness. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you teach us your ways. Lord, have mercy.

2. Both Opening Prayers remind us of God's unbounded mercy and forgiveness. They set the tone for the Liturgy of the Word.
3. The Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time VII speaks of the great love of God who sent His Son to be our Redeemer.

Sample Prayer of the Faithful for the 26th Ordinal Sunday - Year A

Priest: To the God whose vineyard we tend and whose kingdom we proclaim, let us pray in the name of Jesus.

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

1. That the Church may always know herself as a community of people who have changed their minds and hearts, we pray to the Lord.
2. That the world may not condemn itself to war and violence, but look to the gospel of Christ for the way to healing and peace, we pray to the Lord.
3. That those who have experienced damage or hardship because of the recent hurricanes may find help from the Christian community and hope for a new beginning, we pray to the Lord.
4. That this faith community may reflect the self-emptying love of Jesus in lives of humility and service, we pray to the Lord.
5. That this Eucharistic assembly may always and eagerly welcome those left on the edges by Church and society, we pray to the Lord.
6. That the dead who in life confessed that Jesus is Lord (especially _____) may be exalted with Christ in heaven, we pray to the Lord.

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Fair and just are your ways,
God and master of the vineyard,
for you leave us free
to pledge our obedience in words that may prove empty,
or to prove our commitment by deeds done in love.
Help us to fulfill our baptismal covenant,
and let us gladly love your world
working side by side with those of any creed
who strive for peace and justice.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(From *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons, Year A*, by P. Scagnelli, Chicago, LTP, 1997.)