

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: October 11-12, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Focusing on the Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 (*Lectionary* 142-A)
(from *Living Liturgy 2008*, Collegeville: Liturgical Press)

To the Point: In Jesus' parable, the invitation issued is extraordinary: it comes from a king, it involves a lavish feast for the wedding of his son, it is issued several times. Who could refuse it? Yet, people foolishly do, and with tragic consequences. But, in fact, even more is at stake for us than a royal dinner. The first reading reveals the wedding feast to be nothing less than the messianic banquet of eternal life. This is the invitation that is issued to us; our response is either to receive or reject eternal life.

Connecting the Gospel to the First Reading: Isaiah describes more than a lavish banquet. It is a banquet given when death is destroyed and sorrow is no more. It is the messianic banquet at the end of time when God will have completed the work of our redemption.

Connecting the Gospel to our lived experience: While the messianic banquet is a future event, at the same time we already share in it now each time we come to the Eucharistic banquet.

Questions for Sharing Faith...

1. How do I prepare for the Eucharist, God's lavish banquet?
2. What excuses do I make for not accepting the Lord's invitation to the Wedding Feast?
3. What are my "Wedding Garments?"
4. What must I do to attend the banquet appropriately dressed?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. For a possible Penitential Rite C, the following invocations could be used:

Priest: As God's chosen people, we turn to the father for his love and grace. . .

Deacon/Other Minister/Priest:

- Lord Jesus, you wipe away the tears from our eyes: Lord, have mercy.
 - Christ Jesus, you comfort us in our sorrow: Christ, have mercy.
 - Lord Jesus, you invite us to your heavenly banquet: Lord, have mercy.
2. The Alternate Opening Prayer seems the more appropriate for today's liturgy. We ask the Father's hand to "powerfully yet gently guide all the moments of our days."
 3. The Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time VI speaks of "the foretaste and promise of the paschal feast of heaven."
 4. Today is "World Mission Sunday." If the liturgy is to focus on the theme of mission, the Mass Prayers "For the Spread of the Gospel" (#14 of the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions) could be used. An intercession for missions and the spread of the Gospel should be included today.

Sample Intercessions for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Priest: Let us offer our prayer with confidence that God will care for every need.

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

1. That people of every nation may respond to God's invitation to share in the divine life, we pray to the Lord.
2. That we, whom God has graciously gathered to share this banquet, reflect the hospitality of the Lord at this, His table, we pray to the Lord.
3. That catechumens who are looking forward to baptism may even now be glad and rejoice in God, we pray to the Lord.
4. That through the cooperation of world leaders all people may find life's necessities in abundance, we pray to the Lord.
5. That those in military and diplomatic service might be preserved safe from harm, and see their efforts rewarded with peace, we pray to the Lord.
6. That through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor we might be spared from the destruction of violent weather, and inspired to assist all whose lives and properties have been harmed by past storms, we pray to the Lord.
7. That the Lord will wipe away the tears of those who struggle with addiction, emotional illness, hunger or family difficulties, we pray to the Lord.
8. That the Lord, who will one day destroy death, may bring our beloved departed (and especially _____) to the eternal feast of life, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: To the wedding feast of your Son, O good and gracious God,
You have invited all the people of the world.
Open our community to those who seek You,
and adorn it with that rich diversity which is your Spirit's special gift.
Let our assembly on each Lord's Day bear witness as a living sign
to the banquet of eternal life where all will be welcome.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.