

# 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)

---

**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

**Sunday date:** October 25-26, 2008

---

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

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

(from *Sunday Worship: A Planning Guide to Celebration*, by K. Irwin, New York: Pueblo Publishing Co., 1983)

This Sunday's Scriptures are Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thess 1:5c-10 and Mt 22:34-40

The context for the Gospel teaching about the greatest commandment of the Law is the question of the Pharisee about tribute to Caesar (as in last Sunday's gospel), the question of the Sadducees about the resurrection (Mt 22:23-33), and finally the question of the Pharisee lawyer about priorities of the Law of God. Jesus responds to each of these difficult questions with surprising answers, such as the ones recounted in the gospel read today. Jesus took two parts of the Old Testament law about love of God and neighbor, and made these a new teaching by joining them together and calling them the basis for the whole law. These commandments of love as the basis for the Christian life are the thesis of the first letter of John. There he declares that to live in the light of Christ means unequivocally that we are to love our neighbor, and if we do not, we remain in darkness (1 Jn 2:7-11). Jesus gives no new commandment at all, but informs His questioners that these are the basis of His law.

The second Scriptural theme continues the reading from first Thessalonians and in it, Paul compliments this community on their adherence to faith in the one God as opposed to their former belief in idols. This reading could be applied currently to the questioning of present-day communities as to their many gods in this world and their allegiance to the one true God. To serve God means to serve Him alone and not to be lost in the distraction of false gods.

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

1. Today, who is my neighbor? What are some concrete ways to show my love for God and neighbor?
2. The Exodus reading admonishes us to have compassion for aliens, widows, orphans and the poor. In today's economic and cultural climate, how do we provide compassionate care for these classes or groups?
3. In light of Sunday's readings, how do I respond to the needs of migrant workers, immigrants, those unable to re-pay loans or mortgages, un-married mothers and their children?
4. In my daily living how may I better proclaim the two great commandments presented in today's Gospel?

### **Some Other Considerations as you Prepare...**

1. The Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls are celebrated this coming Saturday and next Sunday. This year, since All Saints' Day falls on Saturday there is no obligation to attend Mass. Be sure to publicize the liturgy schedule for these feasts as well as any special events (i.e., the blessing of the graves) or observances (like the signing of a parish "Book of the Dead").
2. World Youth Day 2008 is observed in the United States this Sunday. Will activities for Youth take place in your parish this Sunday? An intercession for parish Youth could be included in today mass.
3. A sample Penitential Rite for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, is:
  - We ask God's pardon for our failure to love, and pray for the strength to love more generously. . . .
  - Lord Jesus, you are the face of God's compassion: Lord, have mercy.
  - Christ Jesus, you command us to love one another: Christ, have mercy.
  - Lord Jesus, you gave your life out of love for us: Lord, have mercy.
4. Either Opening Prayer is appropriate today. Both reflect the themes of today's Scriptures.

## Sample General Intercessions for the 30th Ordinary Sunday – Cycle A

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

*Priest:* Having turned toward the true and living God, let us pray in the name of Jesus. . .

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

That the Church may live within its own communities the love of God and of neighbor that Christ teaches in the Gospel, we pray to the Lord.

That nations may provide compassionate care for children, aliens and all vulnerable members of society, we pray to the Lord.

That Christians who work in business and finance may find new ways to express the scriptural call to compassion, we pray to the Lord.

That families and individuals struggling to carry burdens of debt may find assistance and aid from those who mirror God's own compassion, we pray to the Lord.

That those who mourn the loss of a spouse or parent may be lifted up by the love and concern of our community, we pray to the Lord.

That our community may welcome newcomers from foreign lands, and cherish the heritage they bring to enrich our parish life, we pray to the Lord.

That this assembly may receive the Word with joy, and become an example to others through our love of God and neighbor, we pray to the Lord.

That those who served the living and true God in this life (especially \_\_\_\_\_) may now be welcomed by the Son whom God raised from the dead, we pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* To love You, O Lord our God, with all our heart and soul and mind,  
we must love our neighbor as ourselves,  
and take as our neighbors those You most love:  
the helpless, the strangers and the poor.  
Establish deep in our hearts your compassionate justice,  
that the measure of our love may be like your love for us –  
boundless and unconditional.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.