

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity – Cycle A

Sunday date: May 17-18, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Some may wonder about this feast, as it remembers not an event but a doctrine. However, the prayers of the liturgy focus on the experience of the Trinitarian life that produces the fruitfulness of God's life in us: faithful love. What else in human life can affect happiness and peace in such a profound manner? While this doctrine is a difficult truth, it is a feast of the reality of God in human life.

Its placement after Pentecost and before The Body and Blood of Jesus holds these two other feasts in dynamic tension, looking forward to the essentials needed for living out this Trinitarian life during the "Ordinary Time" to come: a life animated by the Holy Spirit, and fed by the Body and Blood of the Lord. We remember, we believe.

Today is a Sunday of Ordinary Time, although white vestments are worn.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. When have I been amazed at the great love someone else has for me?
2. How does my parish minister in such a way as to describe the reality of God loving in this world?
3. What choices have I made that have led to a fuller life? Why?

Some Considerations as You Prepare...

1. For the Penitential Rite, keep the invocations focused on Jesus, not on the three persons of the Trinity. A sample you may consider using: “Lord Jesus, you have shown us the love of the Father; Christ Jesus, you have given the world the consolation of the truth; Lord Jesus, you make us holy through your life-giving Spirit.”
2. Use the first choice for the Opening Prayer. The Alternative is difficult to follow when heard.
3. Use this opportunity to help the assembly reflect on how the Sign of the Cross is made at worship. Often it is done hurriedly and without thought. Consider how this repeatable gesture ingrains itself upon our minds, bodies and spirits. This is the ritual gesture which is the first gesture done at baptism and the last gesture done in the funeral rites.
4. The Preface for the Trinity is prescribed.
5. A Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time is recommended.

Looking Ahead...

1. Ordinary Time began on the day after Pentecost last week.
2. Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord. There is an optional Sequence – the *Lauda, Sion* – assigned, to be sung after the second reading prior to the Gospel Acclamation.

Sample Intercessions for the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

Priest: Living in the grace of Trinitarian Christian life, we entrust our needs to the Lord God:

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

1. For the Church; may we, the baptized, carry within us the Trinitarian life as to witness the presence of God's creative love in this world, we pray to the Lord.
2. For our nation and for all who live on earth; may peace be the fruit of the work of justice, healing hatreds and old stalemates, we pray to the Lord.
3. For those who are laboring in this life, burdened by financial troubles, illnesses, broken relationships and heavy worries; may they come to know the consolation of God's faithfulness, we pray to the Lord.
4. For all those who are completing their school year, particularly those who are graduating to the next stage of life; may God's Spirit go with them all to guide a future filled with hope, we pray to the Lord.
5. For the victimized people of Myanmar and China; may they be freed of their sufferings and given hope to live, we pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died; may they rest in peace, we pray to the Lord.
7. For our needs, which we present to the Lord...

[no response – quiet is held until the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Loving Father,
hear these prayers
and care for our needs.
We pray in the Spirit, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.