

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the Sixth Sunday of Easter – Cycle B

**Sunday date:** May 16-17, 2009

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### An Overview...

It may seem strange to us to see reported in the Scriptures this weekend a sacramental experience of initiation in a process not familiar to us who assume initiation happens with Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. There was no such clearly-defined sacramental system in the early Church of the Scriptures. Within the accounts of the Acts of the Apostles, there are varying methods by which a person is “brought into” the believing Church community. You will note that in the account for this Sunday, Cornelius receives the Holy Spirit while Peter was still speaking, before water baptism is accomplished. Some have suggested that this was a parallel “coming of the Spirit” for pagan converts as was given in Acts 2 with the Pentecost experienced by Jewish Christians. While this should not be stressed too much, it is clear that the intent of the author of Acts is to present initiation as through *both* water baptism *and* the coming of the Holy Spirit.

These weeks leading up to Pentecost offer ample time to reflect on the presence of the Spirit in the life of the Church – our liturgical prayer, our social justice acts, our creation of communities of faith.

The Second reading presents an alternative focus on love – God is love. Thus, love is known through actions, ours for each other – based upon God’s first love for us all.

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

1. What do you remember hearing about your own baptism? When did you first become aware that you were baptized into the faith of the Catholic Church?
2. What do you think of when you think about the Holy Spirit? How is the Holy Spirit part of your prayer?
3. How do you understand “love is known through actions...?” How have you found this to be true in your own life?

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

1. As this is still the Easter Season the *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling* continues to be the most appropriate introductory rite to use. Or if you choose to use a Penitential Rite, here are some samples: “Lord Jesus, you are the eternal Son of the Father, the revelation of God’s love, Lord Have Mercy; Christ Jesus, you laid down your life that we might truly live, Christ have mercy; Lord Jesus, you are God’s love made flesh for the life of the world, Lord Have Mercy.”
2. Use the first option for the Opening Prayer as it refers to the joy of the resurrection, while the alternative opening prayer focuses more on the salvific sufferings of Jesus.
3. Preface for Easter II seems to be the most appropriate, as it utilizes adapted Johannine language.
4. The Solemn Blessing for Easter continues to be appropriate.

### **Looking Ahead...**

1. Next weekend the Solemnity of the Ascension is observed. Our bishops have permanently transferred this to the Seventh Sunday of Easter within the State of Louisiana. Mass texts and *Lectionary* readings are thus taken from the Solemnity of the Ascension. Check the *Ordo* and the Diocesan Liturgical Calendar at <http://www.diobr.org/worship>
2. Dr. Judy Bullock from the Office of Worship in the Archdiocese of Louisville will be offering two workshops on Thursday, June 18, on the recent USCCB document *Sing To The Lord*. The first workshop will be for priests and deacons, 1:30 to 4 pm at St. Aloysius Parish Hall. The second will be for pastoral musicians, from 6:30 to 9 pm also at St. Aloysius Parish Hall. The focus of the two workshops will be on *Sing To The Lord* and the implications this document has for clergy within the musical liturgy and for pastoral musicians in their liturgical role. These workshops are excellent preparation for the reception of the revised translation of the *Roman Missal*. More information is forthcoming from the Office of Worship.
3. The Diocese is co-sponsoring an initiation Institute with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate: *Furthering the Initiation Experience*, June 26-27 at the Catholic Life Center. The focus of this Institute is on enabling the skill levels of those who work in parochial initiation ministries. It promises to be an excellent and practical learning experience. For registration information contact the Office of Evangelization, the Office of Worship, or [www.naforum.org](http://www.naforum.org)

## SAMPLE INTERCESSORIES FOR THE 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Priest:* Within this season of Easter, we find our hope in the compassion of the Father:

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

1. For the mission of Christ as preached by the Church; for the Holy Spirit's guidance for Benedict our Pope and Robert our Bishop, we pray to the Lord...
2. For our country and every country on earth; for those who live in places of war; for those oppressed by injustice; for their hope, we pray to the Lord...
3. For our parish to display the many gifts of the Holy Spirit, particularly in acts of ministry given in love, we pray to the Lord...
4. For vocations to the holy priesthood and religious life, that the manifold graces of God be available more widely, we pray to the Lord...
5. For those who are ill of mind, body or spirit; for their healing and freedom from constant pain, we pray to the Lord...
6. For all who have died in the peace of Christ; for those who grieve, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and silence we offer to God our prayers of need...

*[pause for silent prayer; the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Loving Father,  
hear the prayers of this faithful people  
and grant what we ask  
through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.  
Amen.