

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: September 5-6, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview for this Sunday...

The Gospel account gives the cure of a deaf man, done in the Markan style of showing Jesus as the secret Messiah at this point in the Gospel. THE Gospel is intimately tied to the first reading Isaiah 35:4-7 announces that the messianic age has come to the world through the ministry of Jesus. Thus, “eyes will be opened, ears will hear, the lame will walk, and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy” at God’s work. Jesus is the one who makes all these things known and preaching this Good News is the mission of the Church, then and now. This is the time of the Church, between Jesus’ first coming and His second coming. The Church is to bring to the minds and hearts of men and women a re-birth that goes beyond the old Covenant and brings about a new relationship with God.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. What is the difference between the preaching done in Church by the priest or deacon on Sundays and the preaching the Good News which is the task of every Christian?

2. How has your experience of Jesus opened your eyes or ears or mind, or given you an occasion to speak in His name?
3. What difficulties do you encounter in hearing this Gospel?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water* could be used this weekend with a reworded introduction that invites the assembly to participate in the Messianic age of Christ; or if you use the third penitential rite (Form C), consider the eighth set of invocations in the *Missal*: “Lord Jesus you heal the wounds of sin and division...you intercede for men and women before the Father...you are the source of reconciliation and healing peace.”
2. The Alternative Opening Prayer is the more recommended, as it refers to seeing the Father’s hand in the wonders of creation.
3. Preface I for Ordinary Sundays – or Preface VI for Ordinary Sundays which refers to our sharing in the Messianic age through hearing and sharing the Gospel – are recommended.
4. Solemn Blessing V or Prayers Over the People nos. 20 or 24 could be used.

Looking Ahead...

1. Labor day is Monday, September 7. An intention in the preceding day’s General Intercessions for those who labor would not be inappropriate.
2. It’s not too early to begin thinking about Advent in your parish. What will Advent look like, sound like?
3. Catechetical Sunday is September 20th. How will its importance be emphasized in your assembly?
4. The diocesan website [www.diobr.org] has on the Office of Worship section [<http://www.diobr.org/worship>] the year’s liturgical calendar, which lists the Sundays and major feasts, including the diocesan regulations regarding funerals and weddings.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord for our needs and the needs of all the world:

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

1. For God's grace upon the Church; may she be a vessel of the Spirit's courage and hope in the world, we pray to the Lord.
2. For the coastal regions of the United States during this hurricane season; may our lands, property and people be spared from the ravages of untamed wind and water, we pray to the Lord.
3. For those who live in fear for their lives due to tyranny and the violence of war, and for refugees and exiles; may God's peace be found in their midst and in our day, we pray to the Lord.
4. For all who toil and labor; may the quality of their work give witness of God's care and love for all people, we pray to the Lord.
5. For those who live with chronic illness and pain; may they be healed in body and mind, we pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died in Christ, and for those dead whose faith is known to God alone; may they come to enjoy the peace of eternal life, we pray to the Lord.
7. In peace and in silence we offer our prayers to the Father...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Lord God, you know our hearts and our needs.
Grant these we pray, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.