

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: October 24-25, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

One of the most successful aspects of the liturgical renewal and reform was the *Liturgy of the Word*. In fact, the Church celebrates a liturgical Word which has a number of layers of connectivity. For instance, the Third Reading (Gospel) for most Sundays of the liturgical year are connected in theme or image with the First Reading, taken from the Old Testament. While some would object to the “Christianizing” of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Church considers these ancient texts as manifesting a pre-figurement of Christ as shown in the revealed Word of God to people of faith.

This weekend, the prophet Jeremiah tells of an event in which a portion of the Chosen People – those who are blind, lame and sorrowing – experience God’s healing through mercy. They are reincorporated into the community. Mark’s Gospel tells of blind Bartimaeus, cured by Jesus. On one level the Marcan story tells of a man who grasped the power of God before others who had “sight” could do so. Yet, this Gospel story is not primarily an event in a man’s life – it works on a deeper level. Just as the blind man knew his need for God, and even spoke out about this need, all who approach the Eucharistic Table share in the same need for healing, for wholeness.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. What does the “common good” mean to you, particularly in light of the current conversations in our country about health care?
2. When have you needed healing? From whom have you asked for help? Was God one of those?
3. How is the celebration of the Eucharist another Sacrament of healing for you and for your parish community?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. The *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling* could be most appropriate if the preacher speaks of the community’s dependence on God through mercy and love. Alternatively, if the third form of the Act of Penitence is used, here are some sample texts: “You came to heal those in need of your mercy; You came to call all sinners to the Father; You feed us this day through the strength of the Eucharist, the Food of Heaven”
2. Either version of the Opening Prayer speaks of the strength which comes from sharing the Eucharist.
3. Given the images used in the Liturgy of the Word, the Fourth Eucharistic Prayer, which has its own proper Preface, is recommended. Or, consider using Ordinary Sunday Preface I.
4. Solemn Blessing V is recommended as it tells of the unity formed in the love of the Father.

Looking Ahead...

Next weekend will see the Church celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, followed on Monday by the Commemoration of All Souls. In south Louisiana visiting of cemeteries and blessing of tombs is often done. In your words and devotions remember not to prematurely canonize our beloved dead, nor fail to pray for the faithful departed.

SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 30TH ORDINARY SUNDAY, CYCLE B

Priest: For the sake of the world, we pray for our needs to the Father...

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

1. That God will guide the universal Church in its Christian mission, that its preaching always be of justice and bring healing, we pray to the Lord...
2. For this local Church and for our parishioners, that the Lord inspire us to lead good lives of faithful service to Him and to our neighbor, we pray to the Lord....
3. For peace in the world, and especially that military and diplomatic personnel who work for peace be preserved in safety, we pray to the Lord...
4. For all who suffer from want, who live in pain, or who have no one's love, that Christ reassure them with His consolation, we pray to the Lord...
5. In this "Year of the Priest" for our pastor, Father _____, and for all who have dedicated their lives to the holy priesthood, we pray to the Lord...
6. For all whose lives on earth have ended, and especially for those who died tragically, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence, we offer to God our other, more personal prayers of need...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: O God, you know our needs,
and you guide our days with your wisdom.
Give ear to our pleas, and mercifully grant them.
We pray through Christ our Lord.
Amen.