

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed – Cycle A

Sunday date: November 2, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

It is true to say that every liturgy celebrates the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ, the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. This feast gives particular emphasis to this mystery. You may note that every celebration of the Eucharist includes prayers for the dead, as there is a deep belief in our Tradition that the dead are with us still. We walk by faith, and seek to remain in communion with those who have gone before us in faith.

This is not to say that all of our dead are *saints*. This is a judgment left to God. However, it is to say that God's mercy is wide and deep and that our hope in God's faithful love can be greater than our fear of death. The word "purgatory" comes from the Latin word which means to cleanse. This gives us some sense of what the Church means by purgatory – that to be forgiven is not all there is to ridding ourselves of sin's effects. Sin weakens our relationship with God and others. We seek forgiveness and receive God's mercy, yet we still have the work of restoring our relationship with God. Dying without being freed of the effects of sin, without restoring our relationship with God to what it was before sin, we experience a time of purification. We of the Church are always growing in pilgrimage toward the destiny of *becoming like God*.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. How do you commemorate your faithful departed?
2. What helps you move from grief to hope?
3. What do you think about when you think about your own death????

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. There are three Mass sets given in the *Missal*. Set no. 1 focuses on the living who seeks consolation; Set no. 2 offers a plea for those who need the purgation of their souls-washing, cleansing; Set no. 3 speaks of the victory of Christ. You may choose any one of these three sets. There is a stronger baptismal imagery in sets nos. 2 and 3. Only one Opening Prayer is given for each set. It would not be wise to select prayer texts from various of these sets. Use one set, not a mixture.
2. You may want to use the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling this Sunday, using the image of birth unto eternal life. Or, if you choose to use the Penitential litany, here is a sample: "Lord Jesus, you are the Word of God given for our salvation; Christ Jesus, your resurrection frees us from the bonds of eternal death; Lord Jesus, you are light and hope for all the world."
3. You may choose from one of the Prefaces of Christian Death: the one which fits Set No. 1 the best is Christian Death Preface I; for Set no. 2, use Preface III or V; for Set no. 3, use Prefaces II, III, or IV.
4. Again, you may want to use Eucharistic Prayer I (the Roman Canon) this entire weekend, mentioning the names of all the saints listed therein.
5. As a Closing Blessing, it is suggested to use the one prescribed for Sundays in Ordinary Time IV.

Looking Ahead...

1. It is time to begin to prepare your Christmas and New Years schedule for publication.
2. Remember that this year, Monday, December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, remains a *Holy Day of Obligation* even though it falls on a Monday, since it is the patronal feast of our country.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for All Souls

Priest: In the hope of eternal life, we pray for the needs of all the living:

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

1. For Benedict our Pope and Robert our Bishop: may they help the Church bear the hope of resurrection to comfort those who have lost their hope, we pray to the Lord.
2. For all people of the world; for reconciliation in places that know only war; for all who are exiles and refugees, we pray to the Lord.
3. For those who seek public office; may they be guided by God's Spirit of wisdom and courage, we pray to the Lord.
4. For those who have died in the peace of God; especially for those who have died unready for death, we pray to the Lord.
5. In peace, we offer our needs to the Father...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: O God, give hope to your people who continue on the pilgrimage of faith. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to trust you in all things, through Christ our Lord. Amen.