

# 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 Body and Blood of Christ – Cycle A

**Sunday and/or Solemnity date :** May 24-25, 2008

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### **An Overview...**

Each of the three *Lectionary* readings for this day could be read independently offering a fitting reflection on what Eucharist is and its place in the life of the Church. If there is any word that emerges from the Word, it is “*remember.*” What Christians do when they celebrate the Eucharist is recall the past, reform their experience of the present and look toward the future with hope. The Eucharist is our community memorial sacrifice, recalling the past deeds of redemption, the present realization of these deeds in the sacramental life of the Church and the future when the Kingdom of the Father will come in its fullness in the image of the banquet.

The prayers of the *Missal* provide two perspectives on the Eucharist: as a gift for adoration worship and spiritual blessing; and as a living person-Jesus Christ. Both perspectives are part of our Catholic heritage. The second perspective is more consistent with the Sunday gathering.

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

1. What does celebrating the Eucharist mean to you? Is it the same thing as going to Communion?

2. Yahweh God fed His people with manna in the desert. When have you discovered God to be feeding you during your life?
3. How does eating the Body of Christ and drinking the Blood of Christ affect how you make decisions and live your life?

### **Some Considerations As You Prepare...**

1. For the Penitential Rite, Forms C-ii and C-vi, provided in the *Sacramentary* provide the strongest Eucharistic imagery.
2. The alternative Opening Prayer is recommended as it better reflects the communal dimension of the Eucharistic celebration. Note this is one of the few instances when the Opening Prayer is addressed to Christ Jesus.
3. Use the *second* Preface for the Holy Eucharist as it gives clear reference to the Eucharist as a memorial of past, present and future while speaking of the implications of a Eucharistic life now.
4. The Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III is the more recommended, as it reflects the life a believer is to live having celebrated the sacred mysteries.

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

1. The Bishops of Louisiana have designated Friday, May 30, 2008, as the third annual *Day of Prayer and Fasting for Safety during the Hurricane Season*. You may want to make special note of that in your parish this weekend.
2. The Gospel of Matthew which Cycle A of the *Lectionary* features continues next weekend, as the Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time is celebrated.
3. Upcoming weekday feasts include the Sacred Heart of Jesus [May 30], the Visitation by the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Elizabeth her kinswoman [May 31]; and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist [June 24].
4. In the USA Father's Day is observed on June 15.

## **Sample Intercessory Prayers for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

*Priest:* The hand of the Lord feeds us, our God answers all our needs.  
Let us place them before him now.

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

1. For the Church to be formed into the living Body of Christ; for our Eucharistic life to be fruitful in lives of justice, we pray to the Lord...
2. For the world that hungers for more than bread; for those who hunger for peace, freedom, healing, love, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those in the world who have suffered from storms, earthquakes, fires; may God spare us from all harm, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those adults and children who recently have received Eucharist [in our parish] for the first time; for those who feel alienated from God or the Church; for the healing of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord...
5. For those remembered who have served in our country's military over the course of history; that we may live our lives in peace we pray to the Lord...
6. For those who have died, particularly those who have died in service to our country, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence, we offer to God our special needs...

*[pause; the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Hear us, O Lord,  
and grant these prayers that we place before you in confidence,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.