

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: July 19-20, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

We all grow together, the weeds with the wheat, the sinners with the saints, our good deeds with our bad deeds. In the parable this week of the weeds growing alongside the wheat, the Church again uses a parable to give us another look into the kingdom of God unfolding in our midst. God allows the weeds to grow amid the wheat, patiently waiting until the harvest to pluck the good wheat into His kingdom. For us it is a Gospel filled with hope, one in which we can envision a merciful God who gives us time to grow, time to repent and time to allow our good seeds to take over so that we can be a part of building the kingdom. We can trust in God's kindness and mercy as we live in this complex world of weeds and seeds. As the first reading from Wisdom says "your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all." The Gospel follows with the story of the mustard seed growing into the fullest of plants and the leavening of the flour, stories that reflect the final kingdom for which we all strive.

Although a shorter version of the Gospel is allowed this week, consider using the long version for the three parables together paint a picture of a God who will be merciful but just at the end of time, when His kingdom will come into fulfillment.

Reflection Questions...

1. The God who is good and forgiving wait leniently for us to grow. How has God waited for you?
2. What gives you hope?
3. How are you a witness to our Christian belief that that God's kingdom will include all who believe in Him?

Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. Either Opening Prayer would be appropriate Sunday, but the Alternate Opening Prayer talks of God's plan for salvation which fits in with this week's Scripture message.
2. The various forms of Penitential Rite C in the *Missal* are appropriate. Or you may consider something like this: "Lord Jesus, you fill us with your mercy and your kindness, Lord have mercy; Christ Jesus, you are the sower who patiently waits for us, Christ have mercy; Lord Jesus, you are the justice for which we long, Christ have mercy."
3. The Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time VI (no. 34 in the Catholic Book edition of the *Sacramentary*) alludes to the virtues of faith, hope and love.

Suggested Intercessions for the 16th Ordinary Sunday

Priest: Because we do not always know how to pray, we ask that our hearts be open to the Spirit so that we may bear fruit for our world

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

1. For our Church...May we be the message of hope to the many people left hopeless and alone in our society...we pray to the Lord.
2. For those with the power to judge on earth...May compassion, mercy and justice guide them in their decisions, we pray to the Lord.
3. For peace in our world...For the patience to live together...For those who do evil and for those who cause others to sin...May we be transformed by the Spirit who aids our weaknesses...we pray to the Lord.
4. For our youth...May they face the future with enthusiasm because they walk with the Lord of goodness and kindness...we pray to the Lord.
5. For our beloved dead (especially _____)...May they find new lives as children of God in the kingdom that awaits them...we pray to the Lord.
6. We pause to remember more personal intentions...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: God of mercy and compassion,
you give us good ground for hope and so we call on you
to hear these prayers we place before you today.
Plant the seed of your word into our hearts
so that we may grow and blossom into your gift of everlasting life.
We ask this and all things in the name of Jesus.
Amen.