

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



Office of Worship
P.O. Box 2028
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2028
Phone: 225-242-0120
Fax: 225-336-8731
E-Mail: tranzino@diobr.org

RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

Sunday date: August 2-3, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

The familiar story of the multiplication of the fishes and loaves comes to us this week on the heels of the parables of the kingdom of heaven, which we have heard over the past several Sundays. Matthew tells us that Jesus, saddened over the death of John the Baptist, seeks a deserted place alone with His apostles to grieve and regroup. Instead He finds a crowd of about 5,000 who follow Him. Instead of being angry at the intrusion, Jesus heals them both physically and spiritually. Jesus' generosity is not only a foreshadowing of the generous dwelling place that the Lord has prepared for us in His kingdom, but also an indication that the kingdom of God is at hand now in the person of Jesus.

It is both a compassionate and generous Jesus that we meet in the Gospel. When the disciples tell Jesus to dismiss the crowds so that they can buy food for themselves, He responds, "give them some food yourselves." Knowing they cannot do it alone, He then blesses the meager food present and instructs the disciples to pass it around. With Jesus' blessing, the disciples were able to feed the crowd with ample leftovers. Jesus is teaching us to rely on God for our needs. He will give us what we need in abundance so that we can then share it with others.

Reflection Questions...

1. How does my Eucharistic living help to satisfy the needs of those around me?
2. When have you experienced God's abundance?
3. Does my Church parish invite people to worship without cost? (first reading)

Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. The alternative Opening Prayer speaks of gifts that flow from God's goodness, a reflection of the generosity we read about in the Gospel passage.
2. You may want to consider using a Penitential Rite Form C using these words which better fit the readings: "Lord Jesus, your hands feeds us what we need; Christ Jesus, your word fills us with delight; Lord Jesus your love renews us and brings us life."
3. Preface IV for Sundays in Ordinary Time speaks of the kingdom of God in keeping with the readings for this week.
4. You may want to bless students and teachers this Sunday as most schools begin classes later this week.

Suggested Intercessions for the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priest: Let us pray in the name of Jesus, who had compassion on the multitude and whose bounty feeds us all.

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

1. For our Church as today's disciples of Jesus...May we distribute the bread of life to all who hunger, sharing with each other all that the Lord shares with us...we pray to the Lord.
2. For the poor and the hungry...May the God who provides more than we need teach us how to feed our brothers and sisters in need...we pray to the Lord.
3. For those who feel separated from the love of Christ...May today's invitation to come to Jesus without cost open new doors of faith to them...we pray to the Lord.
4. For those seeking the office of president...May they be compassionate and wise leaders, putting the needs of the people of the world ahead of their own...we pray to the Lord.
5. For protection from storms in this hurricane season...we pray to the Lord.
6. For students and teachers as they return to class...May they begin the school year with a new enthusiasm for learning...we pray to the Lord.
7. For [names and] all who have died...May they delight in the rich fare of heavenly life...we pray to the Lord.
8. In silence, we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

Priest: Father, your abundant goodness and love is beyond measure.
You fill our hearts and souls with love beyond our understanding.
Help us to treat others with the same love,
so that together our actions may bring you glory.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.