

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle A

**Sunday date:** August 9-10, 2008

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

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

This Sunday's readings are about faith – our faith in Jesus who is the presence of God among us. Faith enables us to take risks knowing that Jesus will be there to save us. Jesus had just performed a miracle feeding thousands with a few simple loaves and fishes. He sends His disciples off in a boat while He goes to the mountain to pray alone. When a storm arises, tossing the apostles' boat around, Jesus approaches them, walking on water. Another miracle. But still the apostles don't seem to get it. They cry, "It is a ghost." Peter even tells the Lord, "If it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Peter begins his own walk on water, but begins to doubt and starts sinking. "Lord, save me," he cries. Jesus reaches out for Peter and catches him. Our own discipleship requires that we be able to answer Jesus' invitation to "come." Fear of failure will not stop us because we know that Jesus offers us salvation if we just trust in Him enough to develop a relationship with Him.

### **Reflection Questions...**

1. When have you felt Jesus reach out and save you?
2. What do you mean when you say you trust in the Lord?
3. How do you hear Jesus speak to you? (first reading)

### **Other Considerations as You Prepare...**

1. You may want to consider using a Penitential Rite Form C using these words, which better fit the readings:
  - Lord Jesus, you come in stillness and in storm; Lord have mercy
  - Christ Jesus, you are the strength for our failing courage; Christ have mercy.
  - Lord Jesus, you calm our fears and bring us salvation; Lord have mercy
2. The alternative Opening Prayer asks God to touch our hearts, which has semblance to Jesus' reaching out for Peter in the Gospel reading.
3. The First Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time would be a good choice for this Sunday.

### **Upcoming...**

August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption. Please be sure to publicize your Mass schedule for the holy day of obligation.

## Sample Prayer of the Faithful for the 19th Ordinal Sunday

*Priest:* Let us pray for ourselves and for all who share this world with us.

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

1. For our Church...May we be a safe haven for the thousands of people who live in fear...we pray to the Lord
2. For world leaders, for military men and women, for all working for peace...May they be given wisdom to make decisions for the common good...we pray to the Lord
3. For those who are struggling with doubt...May they feel the gentle touch of Jesus who reaches for us and saves us...we pray to the Lord
4. For those who are hungry or have no place to live...May this community of faith reach out to them with the compassion of Jesus...we pray to the Lord
5. For each of us gathered here today...May we be open to hearing the voice of God and eager to follow him...we pray to the Lord
6. For our beloved dead (names) and all who have died...May they find eternal rest in heaven with Jesus...we pray to the Lord.
7. In silence, we lift up the prayers of our hearts.

*[pause; the presider alone then concludes]*

*Priest:* Loving Father,  
hear the prayers of your people and build in us a strong faith.  
Reach out to save us when we are weak  
as Christ stretched out His hand to St. Peter.  
We ask this all things in Jesus' name.  
Amen.