

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 Pentecost

Sunday date: May 10-11, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview.

The 1969 reform of the liturgical calendar eliminated the Octave of Pentecost. The name *Pentecost* was the original name for the entire fifty days of the Easter season. Thus, Pentecost stands as the conclusion of the fifty days of Easter. Throughout the Easter season, the prayers make reference to the activity of the Holy Spirit, beginning with Easter Sunday. These references only intensify throughout the season, particularly between Ascension and Pentecost. Keep the focus on the Paschal event. While Pentecost holds its own meaning and character, it points to Easter still. Be careful not to see the *Pentecost event* as the “only time” the Spirit came to the apostles....

The activity of the Holy Spirit fills the accounts from Acts from which we have been daily reading. All the liturgies of Easter have the thrust of the Spirit. Pentecost’s celebration is not merely the historical remembrance of the first Pentecost. This festival is a completion as the Spirit is given anew upon those who believe that they might complete the work of God on earth.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. How do you see the Spirit's activity in the world today? How do you see the Spirit's activity in the Church today?
2. What of God's work have you sensed the Holy Spirit inviting you to help move toward completion?
3. What gifts of the Spirit do you desire the most in your life?

Some Considerations As You Prepare.

PENTECOST VIGIL:

1. The Vigil of Pentecost is not baptismal as is the Easter Vigil. Instead is one of urgent prayer, after the example of the apostles and disciples, who persevered together in prayer with Mary, as they awaited the Holy Spirit. The readings of the Vigil are a collection of Old Testament passages that set the scene for the later appearance of the Holy Spirit. *This is the first time since the Easter Vigil that the Old Testament text is proclaimed.* You will need to determine which of the four options from the Old Testament you want to use for the Vigil readings. There is no Sequence done at the Vigil mass.

PENTECOST DAY:

2. The first reading for Pentecost day in all three cycles is from Acts with the story of the descent of the Spirit upon the apostles. Make sure the Lectors are familiar with the pronunciations of the various countries listed.

FOR BOTH:

3. The Rite of Sprinkling is the most fitting way to conclude the Easter season. If the third form of the Penitential Rite is chosen, use set C-v.
4. For the Vigil, there are three choices for the Opening Prayer. The first and third choice link Easter and Pentecost. The Alternative Prayer has strong images, bringing the Pentecost event into the present with images of light, wind, flame, and love, and so the Alternative Prayer is the more recommended. For the day of Pentecost itself, either Opening Prayer choice is recommended.
5. The Pentecost Sequence is to be sung on the Day after the second reading, before the Gospel Acclamation. It is the *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, poetically expressing our desire for the Spirit to come.
6. The Preface for Pentecost is prescribed. If Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) is used, include the special inserts for Pentecost. Eucharistic Prayer III would also be a good choice.
7. The closing Solemn Blessing for Pentecost is included in the *Missal*. Try and sing the blessing, creating another link with the Sundays of Easter. The double Alleluias of Easter are also to be used today in the final dismissal of the Easter season.

Looking Ahead.

1. Obviously, Pentecost would be a very appropriate time to celebrate infant baptisms, perhaps within the Eucharistic liturgy.
2. The Paschal Candle leaves its spot near the Ambo after the last liturgy of Pentecost Sunday. After today it is placed near the parish Baptismal font and will be used throughout the coming year at every Baptism and every funeral celebrated.
3. Having spent the last three months focusing on the history of salvation, we now will spend the next two Sundays with “idea feasts”: Trinity Sunday and that of the Body and Blood of the Lord.
4. In some parts of the country, Trinity Sunday is a weekend on which married couples are invited to renew their marriage vows – an appreciation of triune love in our midst.
5. Be aware that you may want to remember those who will be concluding the school year in the weeks ahead.
6. The environment for worship returns to a seasonal one, for Ordinary Time – this means simple, not dull.

Prayers of the Faithful for the Solemnity of Pentecost

Priest: Let us pray through the Spirit's power for the needs of all the world:

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

1. For the Church; may the witness of the baptized be strong in the faith of Christ Jesus, crucified and risen, we pray to the Lord.
2. For all who lead the nations of the world; may the Holy Spirit guide their decisions for the common good of all people, we pray to the Lord.
3. For this local community of faith (_____); may our witness in faith create a deeper commitment to love and justice in our own day, we pray to the Lord.
4. For those who suffer afflictions of the mind, body or spirit; for the healing gifts of the Spirit to bring peace and end suffering, we pray to the Lord.
5. For our families; may God hold them in love and protect them from all harm, we pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died; may they see the face of God for all eternity, we pray to the Lord.
7. In peace, we pray to the Lord for our own needs.

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: O faithful God,
Listen to our prayers and grant our needs.
Through your Spirit bring a new order into our lives,
so that we might more and more be recreated
into the image of Christ, your Son, our Lord.
Amen.