

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 Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

Sunday date: June 28-29, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Early evidence for the commemoration of Peter and Paul at the Church in Rome can be found in the second century. The date June 29 was not set until the third or fourth century. It is clear that from early on the remembrance of Peter and Paul was done as one feast, with several Mass formularies being developed. In Gaul, now modern-day France, there is evidence that this celebration was on February 22, which is now the date for the Feast of the Chair of Peter. The *Sacramentary* presents in the prayers the focus of Peter's faith and Paul's preaching. Peter had the special leadership role among the followers of Jesus and Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. There are two Mass propers and two sets of Lectionary readings: one for use on the Vigil and one for use on the day of the Solemnity itself. Both Peter and Paul served in distinct ways within the early Church – much like the manner in which many men and women serve the mission of Christ through the Church today. Perhaps what is most telling, though, is that both Peter and Paul were invited into an ever-deepening relationship with the Lord which built up the Body of Christ. So are all the baptized.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. What do I know about the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul? What about their lives speaks to my faith today?
2. At one point in Peter's life, he denied the Lord. At another point, he said, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Do you ever find yourself in the same places as Peter was?
3. St. Paul says, in the reading from 2 Timothy, that "The Lord God stood by me and gave me strength." When have you been able to say the same?

Some Considerations As You Prepare...

1. For the Penitential Rite, Form C, consider these samples: "You call us to the faith of Peter and the witness of Paul, Lord Have Mercy; You give us your Spirit to give voice to our witness, Christ Have Mercy; You remain with your Church for the salvation of the world, Lord Have Mercy."
2. Notice the Alternative Opening Prayers for both the Vigil and Day propers. Praising the Father is an unusual way for these Collect prayers to be structured. For both the Vigil and Daytime Mass texts, the Opening Prayers speak of the faith first coming from Peter and Paul. The Alternative Opening Prayers are recommended for both sets of propers.
3. The Proper Preface for the Solemnity is prescribed as mandatory.
4. You may consider using Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) this weekend, for it is especially appropriate given its history and its mention of Sts. Peter and Paul.
5. The Solemn Blessing is prescribed.

Looking Ahead...

1. Our country's celebration of Independence Day is coming up. In Appendix X of the *Roman Missal [Sacramentary]* you will find texts for a Mass for Independence Day, for use along with suggested *Lectionary* readings taken from the Mass for the Country [nos. 882-886] or for Peace and Justice [nos. 887-891]. Two Prefaces are also suggested. You may consider using one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Masses for Various Needs and Occasions.
2. The Diocese will host a *Pastoral Liturgy Institute*, July 26-27, at the Tracy Center. Co-sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, this Institute is for all who work in the liturgy of the Church. For more information contact the Office of Worship, or www.npm.org

SAMPLE INTERCESSIONS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL

Priest: In the spirit of Peter and Paul, we entrust all things to God who is kind and merciful:

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

1. For Benedict our Pope, the successor of the Apostle Peter; for Robert our Bishop, as he celebrates his 40th Anniversary of priestly ordination this weekend; may God's grace guide the Church into a future filled with hope, we pray to the Lord...
2. For the world's salvation, which comes about by the preaching and witness exemplified in the Apostle Paul; may this Year of St. Paul be a time of peace and hope, we pray to the Lord...
3. For all whom we love; may God keep us united in prayer and in bonds of charity, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who linger in illnesses of the mind, body or spirit; for those who give of themselves in generous service to the weak and powerless; may they not lose hope, we pray to the Lord...
5. For protection, especially in the Gulf South region during this hurricane season, from the dangers of storms and the destruction of floods, we pray to the Lord...
6. For all who have died; may they know the mercy of our just God, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence, we offer to God our special needs...

[*pause – the presider alone concludes*]

Priest: O God, strength of those who give witness to you,
listen to us in our needs,
and grant us help in all things.
We pray through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.