

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 on Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: July 18-19, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

(From Living Liturgy, J. A. Zimmerman et al. Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press)

The point of the Gospel: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who pities the crowd because they are like “sheep without a shepherd.” Unlike the self-serving shepherds in Jeremiah’s time, Jesus and those He commissions to continue His work are to put the needs of others ahead of even their own need to rest. The “goodness” of the shepherd – and consequently the fidelity of disciples – is measured in meeting the needs of others.

Connecting the Gospel to the first Reading: when authority is misused, the sheep are scattered, driven away, not cared for; the shepherd will be punished. Jeremiah foresees the coming of a good and righteous shepherd, whom we know is Jesus.

The connection to human experience: It is fairly easy for us to put the needs of others ahead of our own when these others are close to us. It is more challenging and requires a more conscious choice to meet the needs of others who are not so close.

Questions for Sharing Faith...

- 1) Like the crowd in today's Gospel, how have I been hungry for Jesus' teaching?
- 2) How do I practice the qualities of Jesus' shepherding in my daily life?
- 3) As I reflect on the ways that Jesus was a shepherd, what improvements need to be made in my in the Church?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

- 1) Sample Penitential Rite for the 16th Ordinal Sunday, Cycle B:

Priest: God is the shepherd who cares for us, let us surrender ourselves to God's love and care so that we can hear and respond to Jesus' teaching. . .

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who cares for us: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, your heart is moved with compassion as you gaze upon us:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you shepherd us with your teaching: Lord, have mercy.

- 2) The Preface for Sundays in Ordinary Time VIII (P36) uses "shepherding" imagery, noting God's role in keeping the flock together despite our "wandering."
- 3) The Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III uses "shepherding" imagery too, especially in speaking of "directing" our steps to himself and "showing" us "how to walk..."

Sample Prayer of the Faithful for the 16th Ordinal Sunday

Priest: As disciples gathered around Jesus, let us offer to the Lord our intercessions for all God's children:

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

- 1) For those called to shepherd the Lord's flock, especially bishops and priests of the Church, may they attend with compassion to the needs of all, we pray to the Lord.
- 2) For a birth of a new humanity; reconciled to God and to each other, may Jews, Muslims and Christians soon experience a lasting peace, we pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who are sick (especially those struggling with cancer or other serious illness); may the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and our community's compassion bring healing and strength, we pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all victims of abuse, particularly those who have experienced this through ministers of the Church and teachers; may God lead us to a new place of humility, and for God's consolation on those who feel betrayed, wounded and afraid, we pray to the Lord.
- 5) For us who have been brought near to God and to each other by the blood of Christ; may we proclaim to all the peace God has bestowed on us, we pray to the Lord.
- 6) For the dead whom the Good Shepherd has gathered to himself (especially _____); may they live forever in God's house, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord God, faithful shepherd of the flock,
in Jesus you long to gather into one fold
the scattered sheep, the desolate crowd,
the souls bewildered and confused.
Work in us and through us to fashion a new humanity,
Proclaiming peace to those near and those far off,
Gathering many into one through Christ's glorious cross.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.