

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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

Sunday date: August 2, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

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

To the point: Seeing the manna on the ground, the Israelite community asks, “What is this?” (first reading). Moses answers that this is the bread God has given them to eat. At the heart of their questioning of Jesus in the Gospel, the crowd is really asking, “Who is this?” Jesus answers, “I am the Bread of Life” sent by God. The nourishment God sends us now is not a perishable substance but the very person of Jesus. Moreover, this Bread “endures for eternal life.”

Connecting the Gospel to the first reading: In the first reading, the Israelites grumble about being hungry and look to their past experience in Egypt where they had their “fill of bread.”

In the Gospel Jesus is calling the crowd to look beyond their having been filled with bread to what is unimaginable – being filled with Jesus who is the “Bread of Life.”

Connecting the Gospel to our culture: As human beings, we are always dissatisfied, always longing for more. In Jesus, God gives us all that we long for; we have only to see and believe.

Questions for Sharing Faith...

1. The Israelites grumbled. No food in the desert and memories of fleshpots in Egypt, where they were captives. How fares your trust in God when God calls you to new places in your spiritual life or work?
2. "Our ancestors ate manna in the desert." What is the food that you need for your life's journey?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. Sample Penitential Rite using the third form:

Priest: Called to become one body and one spirit in Christ, let us turn to God and remember His love and forgiveness.

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you are moved with compassion for those who seek you. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the living bread come down from heaven. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you alone have the words of everlasting life. Lord, have mercy.

2. Either of the two Prefaces for the Holy Eucharist will be appropriate for the next four weekends.
3. You may wish to revisit the hymnody you utilized for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi in planning for this weekend and the next three weekends.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for the 18th Ordinal Sunday, Cycle B

Priest: To the good and gracious God who gives us bread from heaven, let us join in heartfelt prayer on behalf of the needs of all.

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

1. That the Church, on its pilgrimage to the land of promise, may never doubt God's providence but draw strength from the bread of life, we pray to the Lord.
2. That in a world where so many are afflicted by hunger, nations may set aside differences and provide for the needs of each other, we pray to the Lord.
3. That all who put aside their former way of life may be renewed in mind and spirit, in true righteousness and holiness, we pray to the Lord.
4. That we who share the bread from heaven in our worship may be inspired to provide daily bread for those who are in need, we pray to the Lord.
5. That we may never become lost in pursuit of food that perishes but learn from our worship to cherish the Blessed Sacrament and other gifts from God that endure, we pray to the Lord.
6. That all political leaders honor God's laws by protecting the most vulnerable in our society, we pray to the Lord:
7. That the dead who believed in Jesus in this life (especially _____) may never be hungry or thirsty again, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: O God, whose gift to our ancestors was manna in the wilderness,
we believe in the One whom you have sent,
on whom you have set your seal.
Nourish us on the bread of Christ's teaching,
clothe us in your likeness.
May we live a life worthy of our calling
and bear witness in true happiness.
We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

(From *Prayers for Sundays and Seasons, Year B*, P. Scagnelli, Chicago: LTP, 1996)