

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

**Sunday date:** August 22-23, 2009

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### An Overview...

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

**Focusing on the Gospel:** When the disciples hear Jesus' words, they voice what many of us feel: "This saying is hard." And indeed it is! The choice which confronts those disciples confronts us as well: will we stay with Jesus or not? To choose Jesus is to choose life.

**Connecting the Gospel to the First Reading:** Both the first reading and the Gospel call upon us to decide whom we will serve. The decision is based on our knowledge and experience of what God has done for us. Sometimes we follow Jesus even without full understanding or complete conviction. But, like Peter, we know that there is none other to whom we would rather go.

### Questions for Sharing Faith:

1. When have I found Jesus' teaching to be "hard?"
2. When are the words of Jesus "Spirit and Life" for me?
3. Why have I chosen to stay with Jesus?

## **Some Considerations as You Prepare:**

### 1. Sample Penitential Rite Form C:

*Priest:* We come today to celebrate Jesus as the source of life and to learn how to follow Him. Let us open ourselves to God's holy presence. . .

*Deacon:* Lord Jesus, you are the Holy One of God: Lord, have mercy. . .  
Lord Jesus, your Words are Spirit and Life: Christ, have mercy. . .  
Lord Jesus, you have the word of Eternal Life: Lord, have mercy. . .

### 2. With this Sunday's Gospel, the series of readings from the "Bread of Life" discourse in John 6 concludes. It is the last opportunity to utilize the Prefaces of the Holy Eucharist I or II, or the Prayer over the People no. 18 to complement this subject.

## Sample Intercessory Prayers for Ordinal Sunday 21, Cycle B

*Priest:* Let this household of faith present itself now before the Lord our God, praying to the One whose mighty deeds are known to all.

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

1. That Christians may reject the values of society that contradict the Gospel and choose to serve the Lord in freedom and fidelity, we pray to the Lord.
2. That God may deliver our world from its slavery to violence and set nations free to pursue reconciliation and peace, we pray to the Lord.
3. That those on whom society has turned its back may not despair, but be comforted to find Christ's disciples do not abandon them, we pray to the Lord.
4. That spouses in our community may grow in love and be living signs of Christ's total love for and commitment to the Church, we pray to the Lord.
5. That those whose faith is tested may not walk away but stay near Jesus, who alone has the words of eternal life, we pray to the Lord.
6. That this assembly may find Jesus' words to be spirit and life, and His flesh and blood to be the source of eternal life for us, we pray to the Lord.
7. That those who served God and remained loyal to Christ in this life (especially \_\_\_\_\_), may now see God face to face, we pray to the Lord.

*Priest:* O God, in Christ, your eternal Word,  
You have revealed the full depths of your love for us.  
Guide this holy assembly of your people  
by the light of your Holy Spirit,  
so that no word of mere human wisdom  
may ever cause us to turn away from your Holy One,  
the Lord, who alone has the words of eternal life,  
and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

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