

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Sunday date: August 29-30, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

(Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

Responding to the Pharisees and Scribes, Jesus restores priority to God's law over various interpretations of the law and moves the discussion from outward observances to inward intention. In this way Jesus calls us back to the true purpose of the Law and tradition: conversion of heart.

Connecting the Gospel to the first reading. Moses enjoins the people to observe God's commandments carefully so 'that you may live.' Jesus teaches that observance begins in the heart. Conversion of heart, therefore, is crucial because it is a matter of life or death.

Connecting the Gospel to culture: It's relatively easy to change outward things about ourselves, for example, hairstyle, clothes, facelift, etc. But to change a lifestyle (for example following a healthy diet, stopping smoking) requires a consistent, lifelong effort – so too, conversion.

(From Living Liturgy, J. A. Zimmerman, et al., Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2005)

Questions for Faith Sharing...

- 1) In my life, how could I better interiorize God's law?
- 2) In my faith where do I fall into mere "lip service?"
- 3) What are some examples of how my service to the community goes beyond mere "lip service?"

Some Considerations as you Prepare:

1. Form C of the Penitential Rite could be used. Here is an example of texts:

Priest: My brothers and sisters, God has given the commandments to guide us. Let us reflect on how well those commandments have drawn us closer to God. . .

Deacon: Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: Lord, have mercy. . .

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy. . .

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy. . .

2. Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I with its emphasis on "keeping the covenant" is appropriate today.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Priest: Let us offer our prayer to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who is near to us whenever we call.

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

1. For the Church: may it grow in faithfulness to God's commandments interpreting them with wisdom and discernment for the holiness of all, we pray to the Lord.
2. For our parish community: may avarice and pride, slander and deceit and every other defilement be far from our hearts, we pray to the Lord.
3. For the world: may all peoples know how close God is to those who live the law of love, we pray to the Lord.
4. For all political leaders: may they may honor God with their hearts by honoring God's law and protecting the most vulnerable in our society, we pray to the Lord.
5. For all who live along the Gulf Coast of the United States: may we be spared high winds and water during this hurricane season, we pray to the Lord.
6. For all who suffer: may they find healing of their pain and hope for their future, we pray to the Lord.
7. For this Eucharistic assembly: may the worship of our lips be matched by the faith in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.
8. For the faithful departed: may they enter in to heaven, occupying the land of delight which the Lord God has promised, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord God of our ancestors,
whose statutes and ordinances are for all time a way of holiness,
cleanse us through and through, and keep our hearts faithful.
As we welcome your saving word,
help us speak it in the generous service of those most in need,
for this alone is religion pure and undefiled.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.